Sunday, February 19, 2012 ★★ 13 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 73 P20 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4467 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet | Facebook: /philippineinquirer

THROUGH A GLASS CLEARLY Tiny crystals in this photograph taken very early in the morning somewhere in Cavite look like morning dew. They are actually droplets of water trapped by an unseen spider web. On bright green leaves or on some other surface, the crystal clear droplets seem to convey their own message of peace and tranquility. NOEL D. CELIS

'Proof beyond doubt'

Prosecution set to rest case on Article 2

By Cynthia D. Balana and Norman Bordadora

THE PROSECUTION yesterday said it had established "proof beyond reasonable doubt" to secure a conviction of impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona and was preparing to rest its case on Article 2 of the impeachment complaint.

Rodin Rep. Niel Tupas Jr., the chief House prosecutor, said his team had been able to present damning evidence on Corona's nondisclosure of assets, which is covered by Article 2. "What we presented was already proof beyond reasonable doubt," Tupas told the Inquirer in an interview.

He added: "This is the sum of all lawyers' hours—when the client is not telling the truth. How can you answer all this evidence? It seems respondent Corona is not disclosing everything to his counsels."

Even Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, a close adviser of President Aquino, said there was sufficient evidence for Corona's conviction.

PAGE 4A

Defense: P34M is Corona's wife's; it didn't come from gov't / A6

Too many tactics, too little truth on Week 5

By Raul C. Pangalangan
Columnist

THROUGHOUT the four days of trial last week, the only explosive testimony actually relevant to Article 2 in the impeachment complaint was that the Chief Justice closed three bank accounts on the day he was impeached. The rest were the nitty-gritty of authenticating documents (really done in pretrial).

COMMENTARY

The other important revelations pertained to the Senate's indignation over being hoodwinked over a leaked document. One, it turns out to be phony. Two, there was no "small woman." And three, another congressman also got a copy.

TOO HARVY/ A4

Davos: Still not many willing to listen to the world's poor

By Tony Meloto
Founder, Gawad Kalinga

(Editor's Note: The author attended this year's edition of the World Economic Forum, the world's foremost gathering of business and political leaders, from Jan. 22 to 29 in Davos, Switzerland.)

DAVOS 2012 was a contrast of many worlds that the World Economic Forum (WEF) was valiantly trying to bridge.

I was there hoping to be an active outside-

DAVOS/ A19

Miracle brewing in ₱100-M rescue of coffee capital

By Kristine L. Alave

ASK ANY coffee farmer in Amadeo, Cavite, about the going price of their coffee and they will answer with a frown. Josefa de la Peña, a 77-year-old coffee grower, grimaced when told that the price being offered for Amadeo coffee was P96 per kilogram as of Friday.

De la Peña, who was named one of the most outstanding coffee farmers of Amadeo at the Pahimis (thanksgiving) festival last Friday, expressed disgust at the

PRINCESS/ A12

'Lincredible' phenom online, too

WASHINGTON—It's Linsanity.

The NBA's newest star, Jeremy Lin, is not just a phenomenon on court. He's one online too.

The New York Knicks' point guard has been racking up Twitter followers.

LINCREDIBLE/ A19

World viewing on Net Whitney private funeral

NEW YORK—They won't be there in person, but singer Whitney Houston's millions of fans worldwide will be able to share in her homecoming service on Saturday (Sunday in Manila) as they watch her private funeral on the Internet.

It will provide a much-needed connection for fans who have lacked a formal place to eulogize Houston, one of the world's best-selling artists who died in Beverly Hills, California, on Saturday at the age of 48.

Some have gathered and placed flowers outside the Newark, New Jersey, church where the funeral will be held

WORLD/ A13

INQUIRER SALUTES ITS VERY OWN

A PLUS PLUS PLUS Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, PDI president/CEO, will be awarded on Feb. 23 the Outstanding Asian Institute of Management (AIM) Alumni Achievement Award (Triple A) for exemplary work in her field and contribution to uplift the less privileged. She graduated from AIM with a master's degree in development management.

CLASSIC Sun Bleds College Alumni Association conferred on PDI SVP sales and marketing, Rene Reinoso, the 2012 Distinguished Bedan Award for his leadership during the annual Red and White Ball. With Reinoso are SBCAA president, lawyer Jonas Cabochan; abbott chancellor Rev. Fr. Teronio Mia. Mariano, OSB; SBC rector-president Rev. Fr. Aloysius A. Maruman, OSB; SBCAA asst. moderator Rev. Fr. Benigno Beratarro, OSB, and SBC Alumni Foundation president Dr. Jaime Galvez Tan. Since joining PDI in 1986, Reinoso has been regarded as a classic example of one who worked his way to the top.

WHAT'S INSIDE

ENTERTAINMENT • **Hunky** actor's handsome friend leaves leading lady feeling left out • **Play** on homesick Pinoy migrant workers get 5 nominations in LA theatre awards
LIFESTYLE • **Impeach** that hairstyle • **Iñigo** Zobel to bring in Hello! mag • **Heritage** alert: Art Deco Meralco bldg. on San Marcelino St. nearly demolished **NEWS** • **Vatican** embroiled in 'Vatileaks' • **German** president quits over business 'favors' • **Gazmin:** Little progress in AFP modernization • **Ombudsman** orders gov to answer mining charge

WEATHER FORECAST

Second FRONTPAGE

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Gazmin admits AFP upgrade plan a dud

By Vincent Cabreza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

FORT DEL PILAR, Baguio City—Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin yesterday said the law on the modernization of the Armed Forces of the Philippines expired in December "with little progress."

Speaking at this year's Philippine Military Academy alumni homecoming, Gazmin said: "RA 7898 (AFP Modernization Act) was signed in December 1995. [This law] was clearly tied to the need to maintain our territorial integrity to uphold and safeguard the integrity of our nation."

But the law "was the full length at its implementing period and expired (in December 2011) without any significant progress being made to its agenda," he said.

Gazmin blamed delays in the release of funds for the program's poor implementation.

"[Only] 1/3 of the P331 billion intended to be allotted for the program, only P33 billion was released to the AFP after 15 years. And this amount was used for the capability upgrade program of the AFP for internal operations," he said.

To restore the AFP's primary agenda, the Aquino administration has allocated P46.923 billion "for the express purpose of modernizing the AFP," he said.

"Of this amount, 16 projects worth P4.34 billion were completed, including the acquisition of the BRP Gregorio del Pilar, the country's first Hamilton-class vessel. The good news is we can expect more of these kinds of equipment and vehicles in the coming years," he said.

At least eight brand-new helicopters would be acquired, he added.

Gazmin said the government has also increased combat pay by modernizing P260-a-month in additional allowance to each soldier.

The government also built 21,000 houses in northern and Central Luzon for soldiers.

Gazmin said the AFP had set up a defense acquisition system, with 138 projects lined up in the next five years and funded by the national budget.

Part of the AFP modernization effort must have come from the proceeds of land sold by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA).

Addressing malpractices

BCDA president Arnel Paciano Casanova, who attended the PMA homecoming in an adopted member of Class 1987, said the agency remitted to the national treasury P1.2 billion in 2011. The agency is in charge of selling or disposing of some military camps.

Gazmin said he was addressing "serious malpractices in our bureaucracy."

"There are still some who refuse to join us in these reforms. Our Philippine Veterans Affairs Office administrator, Ernesto Carolina, has been hard at work shifting the agency of fakers and other unscrupulous individuals who heartlessly victimize our veterans. As a consequence, he has been the subject of a retaliatory harassment case by an employee against whom he had filed an extortion case," he said.

Gazmin did not elaborate. However, he said he continued to support Carolina.

But the AFP is not blameless.

The Commission on Audit has recorded much of Gazmin's remarks in a separate report.

Some auditors, however, said the Armed Forces had its own shortcomings that contributed to the program's poor implementation. There was slow decision-making on some aspects and personnel were lacking for the program's implementation.

In its 2010 report on the AFP Internal Headquarters that was released recently, the COA said that 15 years after the modernization program was established, the AFP had only implemented 55 percent or 270 projects out of the programmed 504.

"Over the 15-year implementation period, only 23% or 55 percent of the 504 AFP modernization programs were completed and the objectives of the AFP Modernization Program...were not realized," it said.

Lack of funds

The COA agreed that a major reason for the modernization program's poor implementation was lack of funds. The legislature appropriated only P15 billion or 10.02 percent of the P331.6 billion that was supposed to go to the program. The funds also came late or six years after the program was established in 1995.

It also said the Department of Budget and Management did not release the special allotment release order (Saro) for all of the funds appropriated. Some of the Saros that were released were delayed, it said.

Aside from funding aspects, the COA also found that the transfer of the lead role on internal security operations to the military contributed to delays. This was because this approved structural defense operations priorities were suspended and reprioritized to address internal security concerns.

The AFP itself was also slow to move. Said the COA: "[It] also failed to address matters within its control and which posed obstacles to the modernization program."

The AFP also has a complex acquisition structure that did not help speed up the process, it added.

The COA said the resolution of several problems was delayed or not addressed. There was also a lack of personnel dedicated to the administration and management of the program.

The COA recommended that the AFP lobby the legislature for a successor modernization program. But the AFP should also put in place adequate measures to fast-track the completion of ongoing modernization projects, the auditors added. With a report from Leila Salaverria

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Thomas: No comment on leaked cables

BACOLOD CITY—US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry Thomas Jr. yesterday refused to comment on the reports allegedly made by his predecessor to Washington—that were posted on WikiLeaks—on the acceptance and secrecy fees of the Philippines and describing them as "among the weirdest in the world."

"Clearly we can't comment on anything on WikiLeaks," Thomas said.

The criticism supposedly aired by former US ambassadors to Manila Francis Ricciardone and Kenneth Kennedy in separate dispatches to Washington, were contained in cables from 2005 and 2008 that were made public by the whistle-blower website WikiLeaks.

Ricciardone and Kenney had allegedly said the country's banks' secrecy laws were "hampering" transparency, governance and anticorruption conventions, and were against the global trend toward transparency.

The issue of transparency has come up because of the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona who stands accused of, among other things, allegedly amassing wealth hidden in numerous bank accounts, both peso and dollar, which he refuses to open or scrutinize.

Asked if the US government had a position on the trial of Corona, Thomas said: "That is something entirely internal to the Philippines. We take no position on that. It has nothing to do with the United States at all."

Thomas was in Bacolod city to attend the third Sinulog Arts Festival.

Carla P. Gomez, Inquirer Visayas

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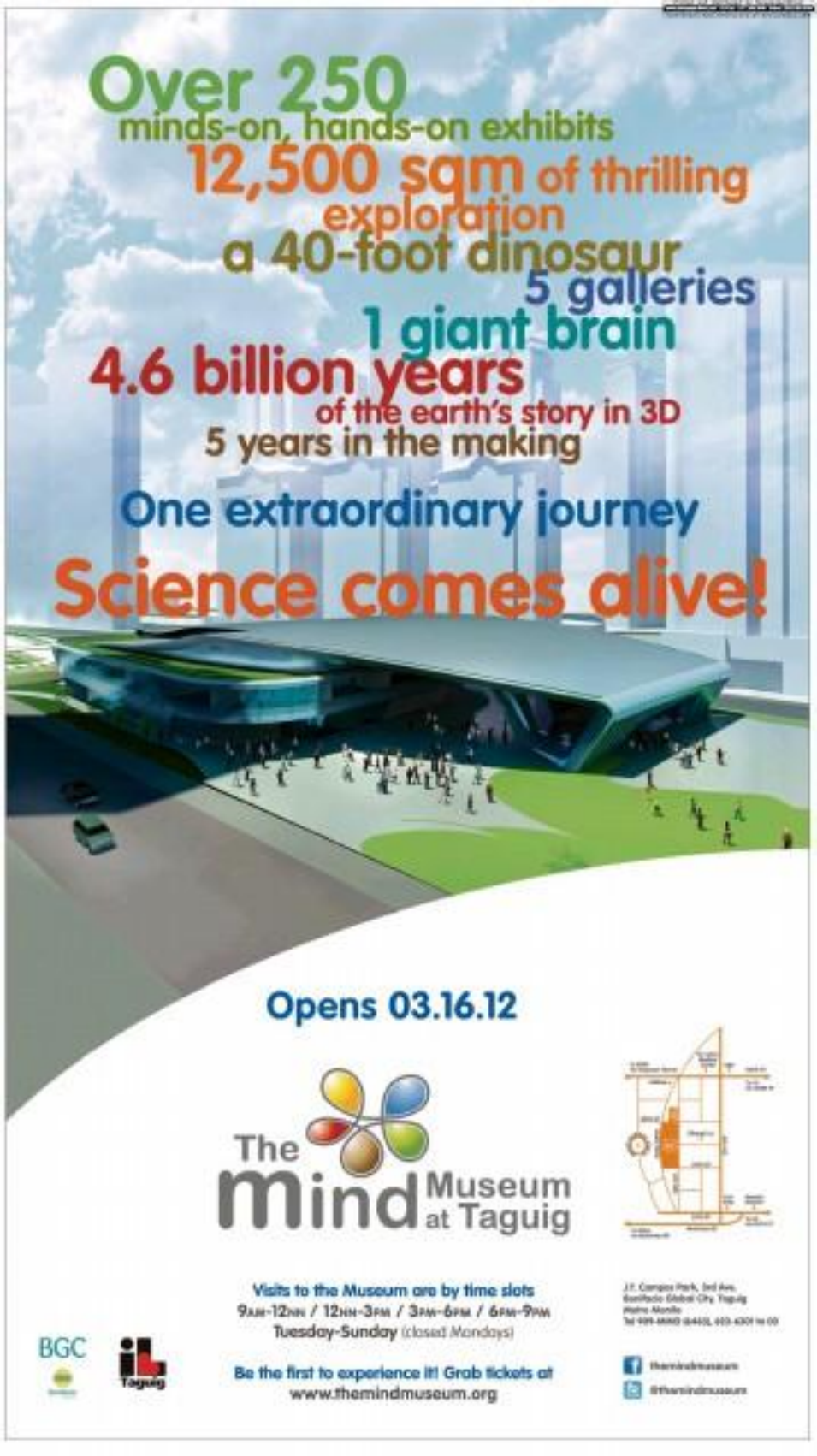
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Bloody liberation of Manila during WWII recalled

By Jeannette I. Andrade

HISTORIAN Ricardo Jose yesterday called on his Filipino to keep alive the lessons learned from the battle to liberate Manila 67 years ago, as he lamented that the generations that followed had taken for granted the 100,000 innocent lives lost or killed here to restore the country's capital from Japanese occupation.

At yesterday's commemoration of Manila's Liberation at the Plaridel de Sta. Isabel to Intramuros, Jose, director of the Intramuros Manila 1945 Foundation, said in closing remarks that generations who were born after World War II could never fully grasp the sense of loss, pain and suffering that those who lived during the war experienced.

"We never felt the fear during the Japanese occupation. We cannot conceive that our friends and relatives were actually and senselessly killed," he said. "For this we can only be thankful that we were spared these moments of anguish."

But, he noted, the ravages had not forgotten the grief caused by the carnage and destruction.

"There is too much we take for granted... As the years pass, as the survivors grow fewer... The lessons we learned from the battle of Manila must be kept alive. If only to remind us of the inhumanity that can incur man," Jose said.

One such survivor is Jesus Ortiz, 82, who said yesterday that he believed that an important lesson from the war had not been absorbed because violence, injustice and poverty still pervaded worldwide.

He described the battle for Manila as "one of the devastating events of World War II" and "a horrendous human experience in our recorded history."

Ortiz, who led the procession in yesterday's rites, said that when he was 10 years old, a garden fountain in Intramuros shielded and saved his family from the artillery bombardment of the walled city.

Seeking shelter

"In October 1944, Japanese soldiers took our house in Intramuros. We moved to Manila. Then at a street there called Gerardo, on which was the only house we could find. The next year in February we moved to the Bahia house along General Luna Street in Ermita because bridges were being blown up (by the Japanese army) and our house was burned down," he told the reporters.

His parents decided to again seek another shelter in a garden mansion. The decision proved to be well-timed because none of the occupants of the house have survived the battle.

"We had thought that the house would never be attacked because the Swiss were neutral in the war. But it was not spared. Had we stayed in that house, I would not be here. But a couple lived there left alive."

The Ortiz family, along with the Ibes-Jimenez family, took refuge at the fountain from Feb. 4 to 13, 1945. He said that they piled up whatever mattresses, pillows and other bedding materials they could scrounge from the ruins of Intramuros on top of the fountain to build a makeshift bomb shelter.

At the time, the walled city suffered a barrage of aerial bombardments and artillery fire as the liberators and Japanese forces clashed, reducing buildings to rubble.

He said that amid the bombs and gunfire, he and his family continuously prayed a novena to the Virgin of Peñafrancia. "I could say in his memory and the Americans came," he said.

The five members of the Ortiz family were saved on Feb. 13 and reunited across Magallanes Bridge to safety in American soldiers.

The battle for the liberation of Manila continued until March 3, 1945, killing 100,000 noncombatants, most of them victims of atrocities committed by angry and frustrated soldiers of the Japanese Imperial Army. The month-long struggle ended almost three years of Japanese military occupation in the country.

A monument, the "Memento-Manila 1945," has stood since 1995 at the corner of Intramuros at Plaridel de Sta. Isabel at the corner of General Luna and Anda Streets as a monument to the contribution of the residents of the country's capital.

At the center of the monument, rendered by sculptor Nestor Gacoscos, is a bonded woman crying for a dead child; she cradles in her arms; the other anguished and intimated figures, innocent casualties of war, are immortalized on the monument.

The inscription penned by National Artist Nick Joaquin goes: "This memorial is dedicated to all those innocent victims of war, many of whom went nameless and unknown to a common grave, or never even knew a grave at all, their bodies having been consumed by fire or crushed to dust beneath the rubble of ruins.

"Let this monument be a gravestone for each and every one of the over 100,000 men, women, children and infants killed in Manila during the battle of liberation, Feb. 3 to March 3, 1945. We have never forgotten them. Nor shall we ever forget. May they rest in peace as part now of the sacred ground of this city. The Manila of our affection. February 18, 1995."

PAMAMAGITAAN ng Lungsod ng Maynila sadere para e flores bofore the Pioneers Manila monument during rites marking the 67th anniversary of the Liberation of Manila in Intramuros yesterday. ALVIN KASIBO

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New book tracks 'fault lines' in PH education system

By Tara Quimundo

IN HOPES of averting a catastrophe in the education system, a former education secretary has charted what she calls "fault lines" in education policy drawing from her experience working under five Philippine presidents.

In her 420-page book "The Nation's Journey to Greatness: Looking Beyond Five Decades of Philippine Education," former Education Secretary Mona Valisno asks: "Where we have gone wrong, or why are we unable to hit the target?"

Valisno also tackles the problem that will be caused by the recent addition of two more years of basic schooling (K-12) in the curriculum. That of having two graduating school years and no graduates will be more big college.

To be launched on Feb. 22, the book will be sold at P550, with part of the proceeds going to scholarships for deserving students. The book was published by the Private Education Assistance Committee chaired by Education Secretary Armin Luistro.

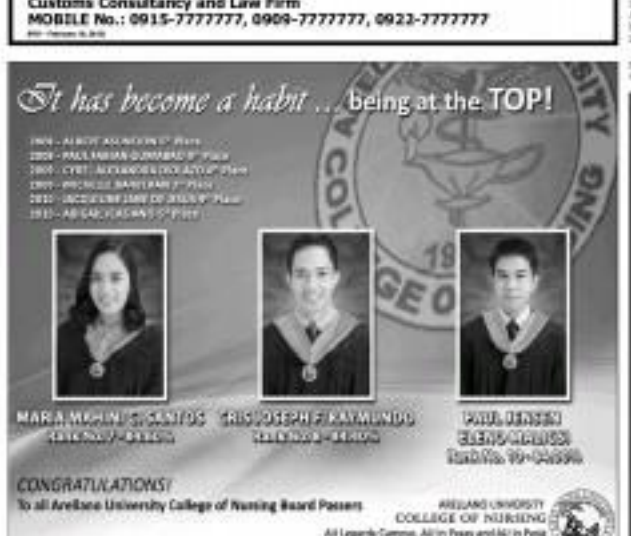
"In this book, fault lines or pressure points refer to the vast, static or factors that are constantly trembling underneath the surface and will eventually trigger changes or shifts in the quality of education in the country," Valisno said at the book's introduction.

Valisno, who worked in the education sector under Presidents Ferdinand Marcos, Corazon Aquino, Fidel Ramos, Joseph Estrada and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, gives her frank assessment of the state of Philippine education in her book.

"I used fault lines as I consider the country's quality of education to be growing apart and, unless the government does something drastic to immediately arrest the problem, the country may experience damage that will take many years to undo or worse, may even be irreversible," said Valisno.

She warned that the fault lines were "so clearly interwined" that if one shifts, "they produce tremors, earthquakes and even tsunamis that would endanger the nation's efforts towards development."

In his foreword, Luistro called the book "an important resource for those who want to gain insights from an insider" on the evolution of the Philippine education system.



Radioman in libel seeks P2M

A THIRD-hand jeepney operator of Ilocos Sur will ask for P2 million in compensation from the government after a United Nations (UN) panel sided with him in its review of his conviction.

In a forum in Quezon City Friday radio broadcaster Alexander Adonis said he planned to demand P2 million for each of the two years he spent in prison for allegedly murdering a former speaker of the House.

Adonis, found guilty in a defamation case filed by former Speaker Prospero Nograles, had asked the UN Human Rights Committee to review his case.

The UN panel issued an official note directing the Philippine government to compensate him for his imprisonment.

His lawyer, Harry Roque, said they will meet with Antocoy-ertuary Lita de Guzman to discuss the compensation and the UN panel's recommendation for a review of the country's libel law.

In 2001, Adonis aired on his radio station Radyo program a newspaper item that said Nograles was seen meeting in a hotel hallway in the midst after the brutal rape of a woman he was allegedly having an affair with caught them in the act.

Aside SC Aurelio

'Proof beyond doubt'

From page A1

"If the senators are looking for a basis to convict, it's all [in] our affidavit," Abad said in a text message to the Inquirer.

"The dollar deposits—as [certified and] already admitted not only by Corona but also [by the non-Stradegic Bank]—but also by Corona himself—is [part] lying on the table," he said.

Abad also said the evidence would push political influences and partisan interests aside when the time came for the senators to decide on Corona's fate.

Marikina Rep. Romero Quimbo, the prosecution spokesperson, said the team "is ready to rest with Article 2 and make up its Article 3 very briefly, then [proceed] with Article 7 [which is] the main."

Article 3 concerns, among others, Corona's purported culpability in the Supreme Court's issuance of flip-flopping decisions on final and executory cases and decisions made by lawyers regarding pending cases. Article 7 concerns in part his purported partiality in granting a temporary restraining order in favor of former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo "in order to give them an opportunity to escape from prosecution or from the reach of justice."

Help from 'the people'

Tupas said disbelief was apparent among Corona's defense lawyers whenever they were presented with evidence previously unknown to them.

"With all the evidence being presented, [their case] has become indefensible," he said.

Tupas said many private citizens had approached the prosecution to help in the impeachment case.

He cited an individual who relayed information on $500,000 and $700,000 deposits purportedly made by Corona in PSBank admin.

He said the informant did not give him pertinent documents but that does have his fellow prosecutor, Minister Cristina Rep. Raymundo Umali, handed over to the team an envelope containing what he said were authentic PSBank documents.

Umali had claimed that the envelope was given to him by a "small lady" while he was on his way out of the Senate building.

But Senate CCTV cameras failed to show that such incident had occurred.

"When Congressman Umali gave us [the papers], I realized that the [Corona] accounts would have been leaked to many individuals already, including the media," he said.

He also said that information on other Corona accounts at Bank of the Philippine Islands was gathered by the prosecution from the checks made as payments for the latter's properties.

"I can say that it's really the people who are helping us. And it gives us strength. It boosts our morale against all odds in the hearts is losing reasons trial lawyers," he said.

Backfire

Tupas rejected the assumption that the prosecution was unprepared in the ongoing legal battle.

He said the defense's strategy to make the prosecution look incompetent in the media had "backfired" on his client.

"The more fact that they went to the Supreme Court to stop the proceedings already shows that they have no defense. It's a desperate act that leads to a very weak defense," Tupas said.

"It seems that the Chief Justice missed this trial not to good faith. It's only now that they are going to the Supreme Court...when the pieces and dollar amounts were found on grounds existing in the impeachment complaint," he said.

Quimbo said the defense flip-flopped in its stances on such damaging evidence was presented in the course of the trial.

"Their stance to be clutching at straws at this point," he said.

Unlike past CJs

Quimbo confirmed that many private citizens had volunteered information on Corona, much of which was above the latter's personal life. "But it's not within the ambit of the prosecution's duties to delve into it [and] discharge it's not in the articles of impeachment," he said.

In contrast, Quimbo said, Corona's recent public statements on the impeachment trial had revealed his misunderstanding into a politician.

"The Chief Justice has been delivering speeches attacking President Aquino, the House of Representatives, the senators, and even his fellow justices in the Supreme Court—a clear departure, Quimbo said, from past chief justices who had always observed decorum.

Quimbo said the people could no longer expect Corona to be an impartial Chief Justice. "His actions have only made his remaining in office untenable. Before he starts serving [his] 10 years, he should first get elected. If he wants to attack other people and talk on topical complaints, he should resign first and run for [public] office."

Political context

Asked if the Aquino administration was concerned about the perceived support of the influential Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) for Corona, Abad said: "There is no doubt that the trial is taking place in a political context and, of course, political forces are at play, trying to influence the process, one way or the other.

"That is to be expected especially when seen from the perspective that Corona was illegally appointed in [his post] to protect [Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo] from prosecution. But ... when the evidence is overwhelming, political and partisan influences will take a back seat."

The recent pro-Corona rally at the Supreme Court was reportedly led by INC members. A major INC rally is also scheduled on Feb. 28.

Asked if the administration was seeing INC support for Corona, Abad said: "No, we don't see it that way and there has been no public pronouncement to that effect.

"The lines continue to be spun and we have been assured that opportunist in the INC's ranks is inactive in this impeachment and is committed to that the process be fair and that the truth prevail."

The President's political adviser, Secretary Ronald Llamas, also said it was doubtful that the religious group was supportive of Corona.

"I doubt if the INC leadership will support Corona with the clear evidence at hand. But as with all churches, members may have different positions on specific issues," Llamas said in a text message.

Unreported assets

On the merits of the impeachment case, Abad said Corona's refusal to open his dollar accounts to scrutiny "only reinforces the already existing belief fact that he has a number of properties and pros and del. let accounts not included in his [statements of assets, liabilities and net worth] and not reported in his [income tax returns]."

"And considering that the unreported accounts are grossly disproportionate to what he has declared in his SALNs, it is not going to be difficult to draw conclusions," Abad said.

"But we know that to the senator-jurors he trusts, which we hope will be soon," he said.

Abad said the objective of the trial "is to establish whether there is enough evidence to conclude that Corona betrayed the trust reposed upon him by the public."

Basis for fair judgment

"While the quantum of evidence ultimately depends on the appreciation of the senator-jurors, the information, testimonies and documents so far presented in and acquired by the prosecution [are] enough to make [under Article 1] ... are in my view enough basis to make a sound and fair judgment," he said.

The President has "full faith in the impeachment process," according to his deputy spokesperson, Abigail Valte, earlier today.

"We need to respect the process but we should not rush it to little what needs to be revealed to the public," Valte said over state-run radio dzRB.

The party list lawmaker noted that every without touching Corona's foreign currency accounts, his undeclared cash deposits had been interesting with the testimonial and documentary evidence offered by bank officers.

"It's like a basketball game with the running tally of Corona's hidden wealth increasing exponentially and the Filipino people rooting booming triples and slam dunks in exposing his hidden billions," Bello said.

"At its core, Corona's hidden wealth sets the tone for a conviction."

Devil is details

Bello said that in his 2010 SALN alone, as filed on April 29, 2011, Corona only declared a cash position of P3.5 million even if his 2010 year-end balance with two of his five accounts with PSBank and one with BPI totaled P31.7 million, for a discrepancy of P27.250 million.

Coupled with the P28 million discrepancy between the declared value of his properties on it vis their acquisition costs, it appeared that Corona did not declare at least P55 million to his 2010 SALN, Bello said.

"But even that P55 million discrepancy between his declared net worth of P22.9 million on one hand and his bank deposits and acquisition cost of properties, on the other hand, may even be way smaller once all of his bank accounts are properly accounted for," the lawmaker said.

Bello expressed apprehension that the P3.5 million withdrawn by Corona last June 12 would be spirited out of the country because PSBank branch manager Annabelle Thompson was unable to confirm if the manager's check covering the amount had already been "negotiated."

He said any and all of Corona's unexplained wealth was doomed by law to be ill-gotten, and that must be confiscated in favor of the government and the Filipino people.

"The devil is in the details, and the evidence is damning. The Filipino people have every right to be confident that justice will succeed in getting rid of all of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's henchmen in government," Bello said.

'UNEXPLAINED' ASSETS
Solon seeks forfeiture of Corona's millions

By Cynthia D. Rodeno

ABSWAN Rep. Walden Bello yesterday said the government should initiate forfeiture proceedings on the unexplained properties and other assets of impeached Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Corona's five peso accounts with Philippine Savings Bank (PSBank) and one checking and AFM account with Bank of the Philippine Islands (BPI) may have at one time held a total of P66.115 million, which the Chief Justice did not declare in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs), according to Bello.

He said that aside from the P52.6 million that Corona withdrew from the accounts throughout an eleven-day period on the day he was impeached by the House of Representatives, PSBank officials had previously testified in two Corona accounts with deposits of P7.3 million and P12.25 million.

If the accounts mentioned did not overlap, Corona's deposits in PSBank alone would have reached at least P52.119 million plus the P12 million deposit, for a total of P64.25 million, Bello said in a statement.

The lawmaker noted that even without touching Corona's foreign currency accounts, his undeclared cash deposits had been interesting with the testimonial and documentary evidence offered by bank officers.

"It's like a basketball game with the running tally of Corona's hidden wealth increasing exponentially and the Filipino people rooting booming triples and slam dunks in exposing his hidden billions," Bello said.

"At its core, Corona's hidden wealth sets the tone for a conviction."

Devil in details

Bello said that in his 2010 SALN alone, as filed on April 29, 2011, Corona only declared a cash position of P3.5 million even if his 2010 year-end balance with two of his five accounts with PSBank and one with BPI totaled P31.7 million, for a discrepancy of P27.250 million.

Coupled with the P28 million discrepancy between the declared value of his properties on it vis their acquisition costs, it appeared that Corona did not declare at least P55 million to his 2010 SALN, Bello said.

"But even that P55 million discrepancy between his declared net worth of P22.9 million on one hand and his bank deposits and acquisition cost of properties, on the other hand, may even be way smaller once all of his bank accounts are properly accounted for," the lawmaker said.

Bello expressed apprehension that the P3.5 million withdrawn by Corona last June 12 would be spirited out of the country because PSBank branch manager Annabelle Thompson was unable to confirm if the manager's check covering the amount had already been "negotiated."

He said any and all of Corona's unexplained wealth was doomed by law to be ill-gotten, and that must be confiscated in favor of the government and the Filipino people.

"The devil is in the details, and the evidence is damning. The Filipino people have every right to be confident that justice will succeed in getting rid of all of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's henchmen in government," Bello said.

Defense: ₱34M is Corona's wife's; it didn't come from gov't

By TJ Burgonio

WHILE Chief Justice Renato Corona's wife and her kin are disputing ownership of Basa Gardens Enterprises Inc. (BGEI), the ₱34 million deposits from the sale of its property invested in Corona's account are not "ill-gotten," the defense spokesperson said yesterday.

Tranquil Salvador III as knowledged reports that Cristina Corona had been accused of accepting control of BGEI and selling its property in Banilad for ₱46 million in 2001 for ₱34.7 million without the board's authority.

"While there is a dispute, one thing is clear: that amounts to not something that they can claim as ill-gotten wealth," Salvador said in a phone interview, referring to the prosecution's insinuation that the amount was illegally acquired by Corona. "It didn't come from government...and it did not come from his work. I can't be clearer."

And since it is Cristina Corona's money and not the Chief Justice's, he is not duty bound to declare it in his statements of assets, liabilities and net worth (SALNs), Salvador said.

Money 'still intact'

The Manila city government even expropriated the BGEI property and paid ₱34.7 million to the corporation, and the check was purportedly encashed by Cristina Corona amid legal wrangling among family members.

The outburst arose at last Thursday's trial when Philippine Savings Bank officials testified that Corona—through his wife, closed three accounts—without opening balance total ₱52.6 million—on Dec. 12, 2011, the same day those lawmakers filed the impeachment complaint against him.

Defense counsel Tomas Espares said that the case before the impeachment court was still pending, and that "this issue of control remains."

"But the money is still intact even as Mrs. Corona received it in trust for the corporation," he said in a text message. "She merely moved it to another account in the Philippines. The check cape as...She appears to be the administratrix of the estate of the late nonetheless."

The Manila city government said the deeds in Cristina Corona's name—by virtue of her capacity, Espares said.

Salvador said the defense had documents to prove that Cristina Corona controlled BGEI and owned a majority of it, and would present these when its turn comes at Gonzaga's impeachment trial.

"In due time we will explain because it's a lot complicated. She has control of the company, and we will prove that to you," he said.

Too many tactics, too little truth on Week 5 with 1 explosive testimony

From page A1

The week began with a bang, and didn't let up until the end. It was impressive.

On the night of Feb. 12, Chief Justice Renato Corona's defense lawyers called a press conference with an exposé: Malacañang had supposedly dangled ₱100 million before each senator in exchange for their vote.

The contending parties had been gearing for battle since Feb. 9, when the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order blocking the Senate's subpoena on Corona's dollar accounts. The senators were scheduled to decide on Feb. 13 whether to inspect or defy the high court.

Marikina Rep. Romero Quimbo, lead spokesperson of the prosecution, called it a "hostage taking" not just of the senators but of the impeachment trial itself and the larger quest for accountability. Bayan Muna Rep. Teddy Casiño even called it "blackmail" and "a declaration of war on the line itself."

The air was rife with talk of constitutional crisis, but the detailed showdown did not happen. On Monday morning, the Senate voted 13-10 to respect the TRO on the dollar accounts but stood firm that the high court could not go further to stop the trial altogether, pursuant to its "sole power to try and decide all cases of impeachment."

Gag order

Even after the trial week ended on Thursday, there was more action. The Supreme Court issued a gag order, a 10-page resolution that judges "are not different from executives and legislative officials...may refuse to testify on privileged information."

The timing was telling. The gag order prevents still more prosecution evidence on the attached impeachment in which Corona's own shenanigans are the high court's as well. Rep. Raymundo Umali testified, the watchlist order on former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the Judicial Development Fund, and the plagiarism involving the "random assignment" case.

The high court's gag order will suppress the evidence for all three charges, said Umali.

This resolution was not meant to protect Corona alone but the other justices too. It should remind the Filipino people that, despite the impeachment charges among them Corona's statements of assets, liabilities and net worth and the public outrage at the high court's lack of transparency, the other justices are standing just as much. The 1987 Constitution granted the secrecy of their own SALNs.

The high court, after tweaking a carefully nuanced TRO on Corona's dollar accounts, now seems emboldened by the Senate's public opposition to proceed to be feisty on the remaining impeachment articles.

This is a total disregard for public opinion, and for the constitutional norms of public accountability.

The Senate should be put on alert, but its scrutiny be taken for surrender.

'Name your source'

When the trial opened on Feb. 13, the senators pointedly asked the defense to explain the previous night's accusations, Said Sen. Jinggoy Estrada: "I challenge you ... to name your source."

The defense just as soon reversed, "ignoring media speculation" (in the words of a report).

Midway through the hearing, it was reported that Corona had filed a supplemental petition questioning the partiality of five senators. The court soon, too, with which the prosecution had charged the Chief Justice.

Corona impugned Senators Franklin Drilon, Jose Vicente Sotto III, Francis Pangilinan, Teofisto Guingona III and Sergio Osmeña III for acting more like prosecutors "proponding] questions more akin to cross-examination and loaded with veiled threats, accusations and innuendos" (the latter) failed to do for themselves."

Osmeña would later say the defense was merely setting the stage to declare a mistrial. Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile (Corona's co-accused) "I have to no mistrial is an impeachment. If you say guilty, it's guilty. There's no appeal. If you say not guilty, there's also no appeal."

But the day was not over yet. When the Senate resumed the actual presentation of evidence (in contrast to the five-minutes no-side banter), the prosecution's own witness, the branch manager of Philippine Savings Bank-Katipunan, declared on oath that Corona's account opening card that the prosecution had filed to base the Senate to issue a subpoena.

So by the time Monday ended, it was the prosecution's turn to be berated by the senators for using supposedly bogus documents.

Fruit of poisonous tree

The next days mostly "mundane" (quoting Sen. Juhay Arroyo) into twists and turns over the bank documents. Indeed, the bank officers ended up being pelted not on whether Corona is innocent or guilty, but on whether the prosecution had violated the former.

Were those indeed forgeries? Can are not the originals? If those papers were all a sham, what happens next to the evidence extracted on the strength of a decree? Shouldn't they be discarded too, inadmissible as evidence as the "fruit of the poisonous tree"?. That would put to waste three weeks' worth of the testimony from bank officials? And if the prosecution had blundered, shouldn't they be punished for the ethical lapse?

The Senate asked the senators to submit their positions.

Before the "false" papers were found out, remember that Umali, in the long breakfast he had now in the few pieces the prosecution got hold of confidential documents covered by the Bank Secrecy Law.

Their most innocent account was that an anonymous "small lady" handed it to secretary today, beyond as Umali at the Senate building. But recently videos subsequently detailed no such "small lady."

This triggered off renewed speculation on the source to determine how the documents could have been leaked. Were these documents kept in a vault? How many bank personnel had access to them? Is there a logbook that they sign? And what about CCTV coverage? Investigations by the Anti-Money Laundering Council and the Bangko Sentral?

In another vein, Senator Enrile inquired about the possible family connections of the PSBank branch manager with Rep. Neil Tupas, the lead House prosecutor.

Bangel's visit

In a final twist, the PSBank branch manager testified that Quezon City Rep. Aniy Bangel-Jr. personally visited her branch to inquire about Corona's account, showing a picture similar to the allegedly fake papers being investigated.

The Senate initially subpoenaed and then invited Bangel to testify. That day ended outside the trial chamber, with Bangel reclaiming in an impromptu press interview that he found the bank documents stuffed in an envelope left at the gate of his home.

He said he visited the bank [banned in his congressional district] just to inquire, and did not expect it to his colleagues but to "make things worse."

PH ignores UN resolution vs Syria

By Jerry E. Esplanada

Amid rising reprisals against Filipino workers, the Philippines did not participate in a United Nations General Assembly vote seeking endorsement of an Arab League plan for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step down, Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario said.

In a text message, Del Rosario told the Inquirer yesterday "our nationals in Syria, who are highly vulnerable, are urgently being repatriated and we are receiving guidance from the Syrian government as this effort."

"Our primary concern right now is the welfare of our people," said Del Rosario, who was on his way back to Manila from an official trip to Mexico.

"We are repatriating our people and we have asked the Syrian government to help. We are awaiting response to accomplish this," he said, adding that "for this reason, the Philippines was unable to vote for the resolution."

The UN resolution, similar to one Russia and China vetoed on Feb. 4, received 137 votes in favor, 12 against and 17 abstentions although three countries and three votes failed to register on the electronic board.

Moscow and Beijing were among those who opposed the resolution, which was drafted by Saudi Arabia and submitted by Egypt on behalf of Arab states.

The other countries that voted on Feb. 16 against the resolution were Bolivia, Belarus, Cuba, Ecuador, Iran, Nicaragua, North Korea, Syria, Venezuela and Zimbabwe.

The following abstained: Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Cameroon, Comoros, Fiji, Lebanon, Russia (Myanmar), Namibia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, St. Vincent, Suriname, Tanzania, Tuvalu, Uganda and Vietnam.

Unlike in the Security Council, there are no vetoes in the General Assembly but its decisions lack the legal force of council resolutions.

The UN's caucus had over 70 cosponsors and the support of more than two-thirds of the General Assembly, The Associated Press reported.

Strong message

Supporters were hoping for an overwhelming "yes" vote to deliver a strong message to Assad that he must immediately stop the crackdown on protesters and step down. The crackdown has killed over 5,400 people in the past 11 months.

In a statement, US Ambassador Susan Rice said: "Today the UN General Assembly sent a clear message to the people of Syria: The world is with you."

She said that Assad "has never been more isolated. A rapid transition to democracy in Syria has garnered the resounding support of the international community. Change must now come."

On Feb. 14, another 57 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) fleeing in Homs and other parts of Syria were repatriated by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA).

That brought to 935 the total number of OFWs in the Middle East country to be flown back to the Philippines by the DFA.

The foreign office has also deployed a "rapid response team" composed of personnel from the Philippine National Police, Department of Labor and Employment and the DFA to "help out in the detection and repatriation of OFWs in Syria's conflict areas," Del Rosario said.

Hazel Hernandez, the DFA spokesperson, said the foreign office was set to evacuate another 164 OFWs based in the conflict areas, where "the unknown has become very alarming."

Hernandez said they received "a total of 250 repatriation applications from the conflict areas and 222 of them were from Homs," a city in central Syria.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday - February 19, 2012
"Sth Sunday in Ordinary Time"
1st Reading: Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25

I anjoy out your offenses

Thus, says the Lord: "Do not dwell on the past, or remember the things of old.

"Look, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth.

"Do you not see? I am opening up a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.

"I have formed this people for myself; they will proclaim my praise.

"You have not called upon me, O Jacob, indeed you were tired of me, O Israel.

"You have not given me even sweet-smelling incense for me, neither have you satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices.

"Instead you have burdened me with your sins and wearied me with your offenses.

"It is I, I am He who blots out your offenses for my own sake, and remembers your sins no more."

2nd Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

Jesus "Yes"

God knows that our dealings with you is not Yes and No, just as the Son of God, Christ Jesus, whom we Silvanus, Timothy and I preached to you, was not Yes and No, but in him it was simply Yes. In him all the promises of God have come to be a Yes, and we also say in his name: Amen! giving thanks to God. God himself has anointed us and strengthens us with you in serve Christ; he has marked us with his own seal in a first instalment of the Spirit in our hearts.

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Cure of a paralysed man

After some days Jesus returned to Capernaum. As the news spread that he was at home, so many people gathered that there was no longer room even outside the door. While Jesus was preaching the Word to them, some people brought a paralysed man to him.

The four men who carried him couldn't get near Jesus because of the crowd, so they opened the roof above the room where Jesus was and, through the hole, lowered the man on his mat. When Jesus saw the faith of these people, he said to the paralytic, "My son, your sins are forgiven."

Now some teachers of the Law who were sitting there wondered within themselves, "How can he speak like this (making God) Who can forgive sins except God?"

At once Jesus knew through his spirit what they were thinking and asked, "Why do you wonder? Is it easier to say to the paralysed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Rise, take up your mat and walk?' But now you shall know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins."

And he said to the paralytic, "Stand up, take up your mat and go home." The man rose and, in the sight of all those people, he took up his mat and went out. All of them were astonished and praised God saying, "We have never seen anything like this!"

Reflection

Mark 2:1-12 Jesus heals a paralysed man. Notice that the man says nothing. Jesus forgives the man's sins. Controversy begins with the Church leaders.

Action

The paralytic says nothing, yet Jesus heals him. Let the actions of this man's friends all be our something about him!

Pray

Church leaders need to know what a sin obliges and when it does not oblige. Pray that Church leaders and that all Christians may know the difference in accomplished society.

Am

The friends of the man who was paralysed went to much trouble for him, which signifies that they loved him. Let your actions today express your love for others/sinners to you.

FUTURE > PRESENT

This is your invitation to join an organization offering greater opportunity, greater challenge and greater satisfaction. An organization dedicated to teamwork and collaboration. An organization working in the forefront of technology, helping 92 of the Fortune Global 100 to reinvent business. Our capabilities are so broad, you can even change jobs without ever changing companies. Talk to Accenture and discover how great you can be.

Attend the Accenture Technology Talk on February 29 for Java professionals. Stay ahead of the game. Upgrade yourself by keeping abreast of technology developments. The future begins now.

Accenture Technology Talk is a series of events for IT professionals that aims to help participants upgrade their skills so they are successful in their chosen career.

The Evolution of JavaServer Faces (JSF)
February 29, 2012; 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm
Ballroom A, Dusit Thani Manila
Ayala Centre, Makati City

Overview
Know more about the Java-based technology that was first released in 2004 and has evolved into the current version JSF 2.1. Learn how JSF has helped web developers make Rich Internet Applications easier and faster while enriching our user experience on the Internet. Get updates about popular JSF component frameworks and libraries such as RichFaces, IceFaces, and PrimeFaces. Learn about the latest releases and improvements on Java's leading event-driven technology.

Registration and prizes
Attendees will have a chance to win an Apple iPad 2 (16 GB + Wi-fi). Deadline for registration is on February 24, 2012.

To join this event for free, register online at accenture.com/technologytalks

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25th AACCUP Annual National Conference and Silver Anniversary Celebration

AACCUP@25: Enhancing Partnership in Quality Assurance and Internationalization

Manila Hotel
Tanza Pavilion
on Rizal Park, Manila
February 19-23, 2013

Republic of the Philippines

MESSAGES

It is my pleasure to greet the host and senior of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines as you hold your 25th AACCUP Annual National Conference in celebration of your Silver Anniversary.

Empowering our citizenry through education is one of the big thrusts in our government's agenda of inclusive growth. They can consider your organization as one of our most steadfast partners in maintaining the academic excellence necessary to equip our college graduates with the knowledge and skills to thrive in the increasingly competitive global work place. May this milestone occasion serve to reaffirm your vision as steward of quality education. I wish you continued success in the coming years.

As our government outlines the policy interventions and structural reforms to improve our educational system, we are also working toward ensuring that ample opportunities are available to qualified graduates. With your support, we can achieve our shared aspiration of a more inclusive society where the gates that we achieve are equally enjoyed by outstanding Filipinos.

BENIGNO S. AQUINO III
President

My warmest greetings to the officials and institutional members of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP, Inc.) as you host the 25th Annual National Conference on February 19-23, 2013 at Manila Hotel.

This is an opportune time for them the education present in this conference for their valuable work unwavering commitment to provide quality education and relentless pursuit of excellence despite the enormous challenges that have systematically plagued the education sector.

Education is our country's passport to the big economic league. Hence, we need to prepare our children for an increasingly competitive global economic arena. The future will be defined and determined by those who have the skills and technological dominance. You, as educators, must equip our children with the necessary knowledge and skills and provide them with a good moral foundation to enable them to make sound decisions for their own benefit as well as their own families' welfare. Moreover, providing an enabling environment through your diverse member institutions will likewise help them develop critical thinking.

A good education prepares our children to meet the challenges ahead, encourages them to make a difference and contribute substantially to making this world a better place to live in. Because of this, our society will forever be grateful for always creating environment that will help raise the quality and standards for our colleges and universities.

Once again, congratulations and fellowship and AACCUP!

LEILA DE LIMA
Senate President

I wish to convey my warmest greetings to the ACCREDITING AGENCY OF CHARTERED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES (AACCUP) as you hold your 25th Silver Anniversary Celebration and your Annual National Conference.

There has been a steady decline in the quality of the country's education system in the past few years. This alarming situation calls for massive efforts to improve the country's education system and this can be achieved through the collaborative efforts of all the stakeholders in education, in private sector and policy makers as well.

Your key role in quality assurance in our institutions in coordination with our managers and owners, parents and students.

I wish the new and warmer behind this Conference a successful event.

EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Senator

My warmest congratulations to the officers and members of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) as you celebrate your Silver Anniversary and host your 25th Annual Conference on February 19-23, 2013.

As one of the highly regarded and well-respected accrediting agencies in the country, I wish to commend your organization for having an instrument in encouraging our State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) to offer and maintain quality courses and programs. Over the years, you have made valuable contributions to the growth and enhancement of tertiary education in the country through your assistance in the accreditation of many technical and vocational higher educational institutions. By assisting these schools in the industry here and abroad as benchmarks in the accreditation process, you have helped raise the standards of over a hundred member SUCs. May your organization's untiring efforts and dedication continue to give quality and 21st year.

I wish you more success in the coming years and to the Chairman of the Committee on Higher and Technical Education of the House of Representatives, I reiterate my request and appreciation for your organization's significant involvement in strengthening learning and education in the country.

Mabuhay and more power in all endeavors to you!

JOSE EVELIO R. SOCORRO
Representative, Lone District of Iloilo
Chairman, Committee on Higher and Technical Education

Summary of Major Accomplishments

1. Number of SUCs with Accredited Programs – 115 (out of 112 SUCs)
2. Total Number of Accredited Programs – 1,206
3. Total of Passed Institutional Accreditation – 38
4. SUCs granted Institutionally Accredited Status:
   a. Visayas State University, and
   b. Cebu Normal State University
5. Total Number of Reviewed Programs – 2,023 (Action Sites as follows)

Status/Level	Number of Programs
1. Candidate	532
2. Level I Accredited	498
3. Level II Accredited	417
4. Level III Re-accredited	172
5. Level IV Accredited	8
TOTAL	1,205

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AWARDS AND CITATIONS

INSTITUTIONAL AWARDS

1. San Marcelino National Agricultural State University (SMANAU)
   The institution award for Pre-Accreditation Visit was conducted on September 10-11, 2012
2. University of Northern Philippines (UNP)
   The institution visit for Pre-Program Accreditation Visit for the accredited Status on June 21, 2012
3. Cebu Normal University
   The institution visit was conducted and program accreditation services awarded Level III Re-accredited Status on July 27, 2012
4. Visayas State University
   The institution visit was conducted and program accreditation and was awarded Level III Status on March 27, 2012
5. Central Luzon State University
   The institution visit was conducted and program accreditation and was awarded Level III Re-accredited on July 27, 2012
6. Aklan State University
   The institution visit was conducted and re-accredited programs on December 21, 2012
7. Benguet State University
   The institution visit was conducted and re-accredited with Level III Re-accredited Status on December 13, 2012

LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

1. DR. MANUEL T. LOPEZ
   (Father and Founding President of AACCUP)

SPECIAL SERVICE CITATIONS ABOUT CHAIRMAN

1. Dr. Manuel T. Corpuz (San Marcelino National Agricultural State University) 1991-1994
2. Dr. Ruben F. Ramento (Bicolano State University) 1999-2004
3. Dr. Ruperto S. Dangalang (Cavite State University) 2007-2008
4. Dr. Rolando T. Bringas (Cavite State University) October 7, November 11, 2009
5. Dr. Ramon A. Hidalgo (Bulacan State University) November 2008 February 2010
6. Dr. Serafin L. Ngimbuan (Aklan State University) 2009 - present

SPECIAL SERVICE CITATIONS (Deceased)

1. Dr. John G. Hidalgo – for having the distinction with the longest years of service in years as President of AACCUP Board of Trustees
2. Dr. Armando I. Velasco – for bringing in the concept of accreditation to state universities and colleges (SUCs)
3. Dr. Armand A. Fabella (Posthumous) – for providing initial fund materials for AACCUP
4. Dr. Angel C. Alcala – for providing initial fund materials for AACCUP

REGIONAL AWARD (SERVICE AWARDS)

(For having rendered commendable service to AACCUP for 15 years)

1. Dr. Ruben F. Ramento (Bicolano State University)
2. Dr. Ruperto F. Perienen (Bulacan State University)

REGIONAL PLATINUM (SERVICE AWARDS)

(For having rendered commendable service to AACCUP for 20-24 years)

1. Dr. John G. Hidalgo (Technological University of the Philippines)
2. Dr. Rolando T. Bringas (Cavite State University)
3. Dr. Rolando T. Zabaljauro (San Marcelino National Agricultural State University)
4. Ms. Fe Teresita T. Lucero (AACCUP, Inc.)

INDIVIDUAL OR DUAL SERVICE AWARDS

(For having rendered commendable service to AACCUP for 10-19 years)

1. Dr. Ruperto S. Dangalang (Cavite State University)
2. Dr. Felipe B. Hechanova (Bulacan State University)
3. Dr. Felipe B. Cachuela (Pamplona Agricultural State University)
4. Dr. Pamula Linda S. Jalmo (Negros Oriental State University)
5. Dr. Benilda C. Pelayo (West Visayas State University)
6. Dr. Ramon A. Hidalgo (Aklan State University)
7. Dr. Purita P. Bihis, BSW (Visayas State University)
8. Dr. Marilyn A. Calabajuris (Cebu Normal University)
9. Dr. Leticia S. Ilano, J. (Benguet State University)
10. Dr. Rolando L. Chatterbox (Central Mindanao University) (Equivalent)
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15. Dr. Salvador D. Eder (University of Northern Philippines)
16. Dr. Josie U. Fortaleza, Jr. (Visayas Negros State University)
17. Dr. Lourdes Ma. Fabella (Pilipinas Negros State University)
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27. Dr. Celestial M. Pagsuyo (Central Luzon State University)
28. Dr. Jocelyn L. Dela Cruz (Visayas State University)
29. Dr. Nanci S. Dulce (Central Luzon State University)
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31. Dr. Lorna M. Valera (Northern Iloilo State University)
32. Dr. Yolanda R. Vilela (Aklan Visayas State University)

ACCREDITING AGENCY OF CHARTERED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES (AACCUP, INC.)

Republic of the Philippines

MESSAGES

My warmest greetings to the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) as it hosts its 25th AACCUP Annual National Conference on February 20-22, 2013.

Organized in 1987, the AACCUP has worked tirelessly to fulfill one of its objectives, to develop a mechanism in and conduct evaluation of programs and institutions. It has since its founding, become a member of national and international accreditation organizations tasked with ensuring quality education.

The Commission on Higher Education continues to support and mandated agencies that systematically conduct program and institutional accreditation and thus make sure that our state colleges and universities continue to improve their performance as abreast of the latest programs and technologies. Always their commitment to make education a partner in the nation's development, and ensure consistently the standard of excellence in various fields.

On this historic occasion, please allow me to congratulate AACCUP for the significant work it has done for twenty-five years.

Mabuhay!

PATRICIA B. LICUANAN, Ph.D.
Chairperson, Commission on Higher Education

The Board of Trustees and Staff of MASAA join me in extending our warmest greetings to the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) as it hosts its 25th AACCUP Annual National Conference and celebrates its Silver Anniversary.

The Association plays a major role in the MASAA umbrella. It is a co-founder and a current member of the organization. It is the most active agency under the umbrella assessing in 2011 alone, 252 programs and two institutions. Since 1992, it had accredited 1,018 programs certified by the MASAA. Together with its sister agencies, AACCUP must play a lead role in promoting and developing a culture of quality in higher education.

Congratulations. We wish the AACCUP continued success.

ARNEL C. ALTAREJOS
President, National Federal Quality Assurance Agencies (MASAA)

The twenty-fifth year of an institution's existence is a milestone worth celebrating and looking forward to. Congratulations, AACCUP, you are AACCUP commonly in jubilation as it celebrates twenty-five years of remarkable strife in its pioneering task of assisting state colleges and universities achieve institutional excellence in quality education.

The Board Officers and Staff of PAASCU and PAAP extend heartfelt congratulations for this auspicious occasion and wish the Board of Trustees Officers, Staff and Member institutions continuous success in all their endeavors.

ROGELIO L. SANDIGAN
Chairman, Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA)
President, Federation of Accrediting Agencies of the Philippines (FAAP)

Congratulations to AACCUP on its 25th (Silver Anniversary) national conference. The Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) commends the distinguished men and women who have worked hard to provide quality education and accreditation to the public higher institutions (PEIs) of the country.

To have grown this big and live to a formidable field due to the leaders of AACCUP, its success epitomizes the quality of individual ones (HEI) must listen and follow.

The challenge is internationalizing Philippine public universities is within SUCs' reach. There are no more room for complacency. PASUC has picked up the cudgel to train its peers and enhance more. Indeed, public education has to thrive, and internally out in the world takes mention the brilliance and the distinct positive values of patriotism/passion and integration of honesty involved Filipino.

As PASUC stands its path to excellence, the mindfulness cannot to thrive fundamental concepts, ethical and professional attention, good governance, quality and accountability, and improving operational efficiency.

AACCUP has always underscored and positioned itself in helping PASUC realize all these. While most of the leadership is term, PASUC continues to train. It has also made a difference.

ROMEO G. ROMERO, II, Dipl.
President Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC)

PROGRAM OF ACTIVITIES

Climate-smart farming way to go, says expert

THERE is a need for the Philippines to change its agricultural systems to adapt to climate change, according to an expert from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

Hafiz Rasmanov of FAO's Climate, Energy and Tenure Division said "climate-smart agriculture" is something that members of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) must take up in order to ensure a steady and stable supply of food in the face of changing weather patterns.

Food security and climate change are two major challenges faced by mankind, asserted Rasmanov.

He said climate-smart agriculture consists of intensifying production systems to achieve productivity increases, as well as climate change adaptation and mitigation.

The means farmers should adopt new technologies, practices and techniques that are responsive to the changes in the environment. One example is to plant more resilient food crops and manage soil fertility. Climate-smart agriculture also involves better weather forecasting.

But, according to Rasmanov, adopting new technologies and mitigation practices is hampered by a lack of tenure security and limited property rights.

"Limited information and limited local experiences available about new practices due to low levels of support for agriculture research and extension, for example, may prevent adoption. Upfront investment costs can be high, while co-benefits may not be realized except at medium to long-terms in the future," he said in a statement released by the Department of Agriculture.

"There must be support from policies and incentives to make the transition to climate-smart agriculture, he added.

Rasmanov, who spoke recently at an Apec symposium on climate change held in the country, said the transformation of agricultural systems should aim to make production systems and rural livelihoods more resilient to climate change.

Leila B. Salaverria

Senate to probe state of dumps

SEN. AQUILINO Pimentel III is seeking an inquiry into the condition of garbage dumps across the country after the weather bureau warned of more La Niña-induced rains in the coming months.

Pimentel said the aim of the inquiry is to find out how the Solid Waste Management Act of 2003 could be effectively implemented by the last of reports that more than 1,000 local government units operating open and controlled trash dumps had been tagged for environmental violations.

"We want to find out how far and how deep implementation of the solid waste management law has gone in light of several aggravating environmental situations that have happened around the country," he said in filing Resolution No. 703.

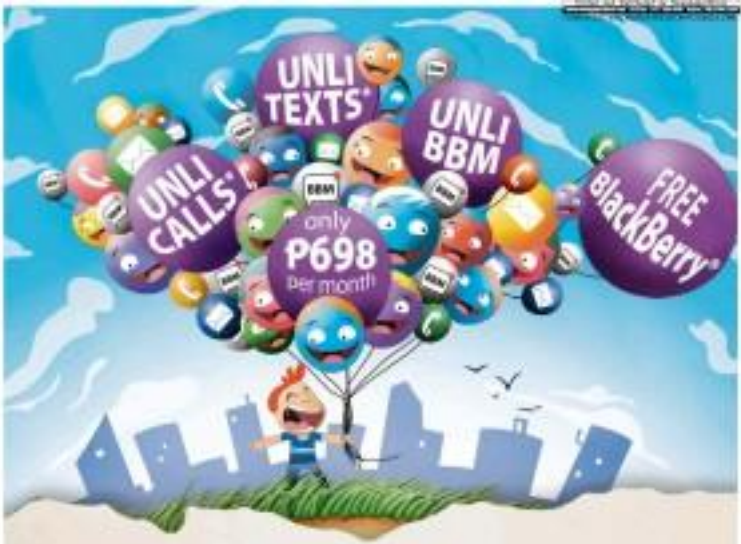
The resolution directs the Senate committees on health and demography, local governments, and cities appropriate committees to look into the condition of all dumps nationwide.

The Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) has projected a wet season that will be aggravated by La Niña and warned of heightened rains up to August that would directly impact on the condition of garbage dumps.

Pimentel also stressed the urgency of a tsunami rehabilitation of decommissioned dumps "to reclaim the continuing biological, chemical and physical threats" they pose.

The senator cited the fatal incident in Baguio City last August where heavy rains brought by Typhoon "Mina" caused the garbage mound at the Irisan dump to loosen and topple a retaining wall, killing three people and damaging homes.

YT Burgonio



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World viewing on Net Whitney private funeral

From page A1

by invitation only at the request of Houston's family, who wish to maintain some privacy. Others have stopped by the funeral home.

But many have longed to share more fully in ceremonies marking the superstar's life, and have shown their grief in one of the few ways available to them—by buying her music.

Houston's funeral will be at New Hope Baptist Church, where she sang as a child. Her eulogy will be given by gospel singer Marvin Winans, a Grammy Award winner and longtime family friend. Afterward, Houston will be buried in Star View Cemetery in Pittsfield, New Jersey, according to her death certificate. Her father, John Russell Houston Jr., was buried there in 2002.

History of drug abuse

In Los Angeles, investigators for the coroner's office have subpoenaed records from the singer's doctors and pharmacies who dispensed medication found in the hotel room where she died.

Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said such inquiries are routine in virtually all death investigations.

Investigators have not said what medications they have reviewed from Houston's room at the Beverly Hilton Hotel. The singer was found underwater in a bathtub by a member of her staff hours before she planned to attend a star-studded pre-Grammy gala.

Police have said there were no signs of foul play and Winter said there were no signs of trauma on her body when an autopsy was conducted on Sunday.

It will be weeks before toxicology results reveal the medications and quantities, if any, that were in Houston's system when she died. The Grammy winner's history of substance abuse has added to the speculation that her death may have been caused by prescription drugs.

Career comeback

In a 2009 interview with Oprah Winfrey, Houston talked about how she was deeply shaken by the death of singer Michael Jackson, Jackson died at age 51 that year from an overdose of the anesthetic propofol.

Houston recalled taping a show celebrating Jackson's 30th anniversary celebration in 2001. Both stars were recharging then.

ONTOLOGY HONORED: A picture of the late Whitney Houston is projected on the screen during a tribute to her memory during the 43rd Annual NAACP Image Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on Friday. REUTERS

"I was getting scared," she told Winfrey. "I was looking at myself going, 'No, I don't want this to be like this. This can't happen. Not both of us.'"

Like Jackson, Houston was on the verge of a career comeback before her death on Feb. 11. And, like Jackson, sales of her recordings have soared since her passing as fans try to recapture her glory days in the 1980s and 1990s. Old recordings have been propelled to the top of online chart icons iTunes and Amazon.com. AP

NEW YORK KNICKS jerseys carrying Jeremy Lin's name and number are the top-selling jerseys in sporting goods stores all over the United States.

'Lincredible' phenom online, too

From page A1

Facebook fans and YouTube users as fast as he has been scoring points and dishing out assists.

Google searches for his name are more popular in recent weeks than for sports royalty such as Kobe Bryant, Tiger Woods and David Beckham.

Lin's Wikipedia biography has grown to over 5,000 words chronicling his unlikely ascendancy—a star basketball player and Harvard graduate benched sometimes at random in Madison Square Garden. But as NBA trigger basketball stage.

His dazzling run has spawned a multitude of Lin-inspired puns on sweatshirts—"Linsanity," "Lincredible," etc.—and there's an online campaign to collect Guinness World Records coins for anyone in need of Linspiration.

Asian roots

Lin, 23, is the first US-born player in the NBA of Taiwanese and Chinese heritage and he has already become a cultural phenomenon among many Asian-Americans and in China, Taiwan, the Philippines and other countries.

A search for "Jeremy Lin" on online auction house eBay turns up more than 15,000 Lin-related items, from "Linsanity" T-shirts for as little as $8.99 to a bidding duel between two rookie years with the Golden State Warriors for $22,888.

The sum on Lin was for his first game with the Knicks, in which he played just nine minutes and 21 seconds and missed his only shot, sold on eBay for $30,888 this week.

According to the NBA, Lin's No. 17 Knicks jersey has been the top-selling shirt online since he came off the bench against the New York Nets on Feb. 4 to score 25 points and earn a spot in the starting rotation.

The NBA said NBAStore.com has shipped Lin merchandise to 73 countries since his breakout game with Nets. Hong Kong and Australia ranking third, fourth and fifth on the list after the United States and Canada.

Comedy videos

Traffic to the NYKnicks.com website between Feb. 3 and Feb. 12 was 600 percent higher than during the previous week as basketball fans from around the world searched for Lin news and video highlights.

Fil-Am director and big New York Knicks fan Spike Lee wears the high-school jersey of Jeremy Lin.

It's not just videos of the 58 points Lin dropped on the Los Angeles Lakers or his emphatic dunk against the Washington Wizards that are attracting views, although they are each near-assured millions of times.

Goofy comedy videos made by Lin fans he became a household name have been drawing attention to his previously little-known YouTube channel, The Alley.

One of the videos, entitled "How to Get With Harvard," Lin's alma mater, has been viewed 1.7 million times. It has Lin providing tongue-in-cheek advice to Harvard applicants such as "If you already have glasses, get bigger glasses."

Filmed during the lockout that delayed the start of this year's NBA season, Lin appears in the video by explaining that he is making it because "I have no life and no job."

Lin's Facebook page has nearly 700,000 fans and features a status update from early January which optimistically just how obscure he was before beginning his magical run.

"Every time I try to get into Madison Square Garden, fans really guards ask me if I'm a trainer," Lin said, setting the message with "LOL." The reason for "laughing out loud."

Davos: Still not many willing . . .

From page A1

ation on behalf of the poor but I ended up mostly as a spectator to the arguments of who are the people getting by on how to keep poverty out of their door.

An environment to the forum, it was wise to simply listen and learn from the successes and failures of those who developed ahead of us. I was there with a clear agenda, to promote the best interest of the poor and help address poverty wherever they exist.

Understandably, it was a Davos-like event. From Sheffield in Luganda to Geneva, many were trying to sort out the debt issue—overborrowing, overspending, lack of growth, rising unemployment—and finding ways to respond to the immediate threat of a currency collapse. Those of us from the East kept quiet as European experts battled with Americans, but we were eager listeners nevertheless since we are all embedded in the economic arrangements

Ombudsman orders gov to answer mining charge

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE OFFICE of the Ombudsman has ordered Pangasinan Gov. Amado Espino Jr. to answer charges that he allowed illegal black sand mining in his province.

In an order, the Office of the Ombudsman's Preliminary Investigation, Administrative Adjudication and Review Bureau said Espino must file a counter-affidavit in 10 days.

It said it found the administrative case for neglect of duty, abuse of authority and violation of the local government code sufficient to form and substance. The order also said no motion to dismiss would be allowed except for lack of jurisdiction.

The complainants in the administrative case were barangay officials led by Victoria Eligarios.

Last month, the barangay officials also filed a complaint asking the Office of the Ombudsman to hold provincial officials, barangay captains and officers of the mobile Mining and Oil Monitors and Applied Builders Inc. (MM-for-Oi-lining) for unlawful law and mining laws for allegedly conspiring to extract black sand in Lingayen, Pangasinan, illegally.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources has issued a cease-and-desist order for Espino to stop black sand extraction in coastal villages in Lingayen.

But a Pangasinan official, provincial administrator Rafael Baraan, said black sand extraction was incidental to a plan to build a golf course. It didn't, however, had an environmental compliance certificate and provincial board approval.

need a job?

Ex-soldier wanted for priest's slay arrested

DAGUPAN CITY—The main suspect in the murder of a priest in Northern Samar in 2009 was arrested after he applied to become the bodyguard of a town mayor in Davao del Sur recently.

Jerry Capera, a former soldier from Mondragon, Northern Samar, has been in hiding since the murder.

He surfaced in Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, and applied as bodyguard of the town mayor, Joel Ray Lopez.

Lopez said it had been his practice to thoroughly verify the background of individuals applying to be his bodyguards or those seeking employment at the town government.

Lopez said about two weeks ago, he received a call from a man, who identified himself as a member of the Lopez clan, while he was on an official trip to Manila.

"He wanted to be my bodyguard and told me about his background as a soldier," the mayor said.

Lopez said he had second thoughts about accommodating the call because he did not know the man in the first place.

He said he also wondered how the former soldier got his number.

Lopez said he told the man to wait for his return so they could personally meet.

When he returned from his Manila trip, the man showed up in his office.

In his application, the man wrote his name as Jerry Bontuag Capera of Mondragon, Northern Samar.

Lopez said he told Capera he would be contacted later.

When the man left, Lopez said he had the man's picture scanned and e-mailed to the Northern Samar police office.

When the feedback came, it turned out that Capera is one of the suspects in the murder of Fr. Cecilio Lucero. The mayor also learned that Capera was also wanted for kidnapping and rape. Mayor Lopez had Capera arrested on Feb. 13.

Capera has since been returned to Northern Samar, according to Sto. Cruz town police chief Senior Insp. Alfredo Sanchez.

The slain priest was the parish priest of Santa Rita then Senior Insp. Wilfred Lucero.

Father Lucero was driving his car past 6 a.m. of Sept. 8, 2009, when ambushed by at least 10 masked men in Barangay Layahan in San Jose, Northern Samar.

Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao

FORMER soldier Jerry Espera shortly after his arrest by authorities in Davao del Sur. Espera is wanted for the murder of Fr. Cecilio Lucero in Northern Samar. He went into hiding and surfaced in Davao del Sur.

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Zambales gov accused of role in mining theft

OLONGAPO CITY—A mining company has accused Zambales Gov. Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. of issuing mining permits to rival firms which are allegedly engaged in mineral theft.

Benito Emerito, president of Consolidated Mines Inc. (CMI), a company based in Manila, Zambales, said Ebdane issued in 2011 at least six small-scale mining permits, with one covering existing chromite stockpiles from more than 30 years of mining by Benguet Corp. and Philex Gold Mines in that town.

Emerito said that to date, more than 95,000 metric tons, valued at P4.1 million, had been hauled by these six small-scale mining firms to a newly-constructed port owned by another firm not to its own.

Emerito said three vessels already loaded with chromite, totaling 20,000 MT, had sailed out to China.

Emerito said Antonio Liu, owner of Hyjee Trading and Trucking Corp. who entered into a mine agreement with Benguet Corp. over the same stockpile, had also been victimized by the small-scale mining firms.

But in Bagulo City, Ebdane said he was being entrusted for large-scale mining activities in his province. "I'm not getting flak from small-scale mining. I get flak from large-scale mining," he said.

Ebdane, who attended the Philippine Military Academy homecoming on Saturday, said he has no stake in mining activities in his province for which his administration has been criticized.

He said his only task is to push operators to respect environmental laws, including black sand operations.

"They've been trying to pin me down about the operations of large-scale mining. But large-scale mining is beyond the authority of the governor. I told the people if they don't comply with environmental requirements, there is no revenue in it's OK with me because mining offers little benefit to the province," he said.

Ebdane said the provincial government receives only 2 percent from large-scale mining proceeds and only the national government benefits from the operations.

Small-scale mining activities, he said, had been helping improve the economy particularly the retrieval of black sand for export.

"We have no problem (like the black sand exporting to) Pampanga. La Union and the Ilocos because there no black sand is worm polluting the rivers," he said. Robert Oswald Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon, and Nestorel Cabrera, Inquirer Northern Luzon

"I get flak from large-scale mining'

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Robbery victims point to watchman

By Jerome Baldivar
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LAMP MIGUEL MAJAR, Batangas—Two victims of a robbery-holdup in Ibaan, Batangas, pointed to a village watchman as one of three suspects who took some P60,000 from them.

The victims—Gerry Mojares, 32, and Estelle Salamat, 28,—told police in Batangas City that it was Wilfredo Talabis, chief watchman of Barangay Malitlalang/Sarang in Batangas City, who robbed them of their P60,000 cash and P6,000 check collections.

SPO1 Raymund Dimzon said the victims were on board their delivery truck in Barangay Ibis, Ibaan past 2 p.m. when a motorcycle with six more suspects on board blocked their way.

The three alighted from their motorcycle and declared a holdup, armed with knives.

Dimzon said while the suspects covered their faces during the holdup, the victims recognized Talabis through his voice, mannerism and the jacket he was wearing.

Police are now hunting Talabis and the two other suspects.

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Please note that Gita is planning to come to the Philippines in March for personal interviews.

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TRAFFIC ADVISORY

TO THE RESCUE Gov. Francis Pangilinan, agriculture and food committee chair, and Cavite Gov. Juanito Victor Remulla Jr. award outstanding coffee farmer Eden Jardeleza on a day of thanksgiving.

COFFEE TOWN Aurora girl wears headgear made of coffee beans during the Pistahan (thanksgiving) Coffee Festival in Amadeo, Cavite. The Robusta variety (below) is the town's main coffee product.

Miracle brewing …

From page A1

price being offered that day: "It's too cheap. My son said it's higher in the world market. He checks it on the Internet."

The users of Amadeo, whose farmers grow the premium Robusta beans that food giant Nestlé uses for its instant coffee, does not own a community roaster. As such, coffee producers there have no choice but to sell their green, unroasted beans to local conglomerators like Nestlé, and to a limited extent, the Universal Robina Corp., which both seek to keep prices low.

Just one roaster

Imagine then what one roaster could do for the Amadeo farmers. Elan Hurtado, a technician at the Department of Agriculture (DA) whose family owns a coffee farm, said a community roaster could boost the income of the town's farmers who all depend on biscuit to purchase their beans.

Since the company buys almost all of the farmers' green beans, it has the power to decide the price. A roaster would be a blessing as roasted beans are more expensive, said Hurtado. "It is pricier because it has added value," she explained.

Having a roaster will also enable the farmers to expand their market, she said.

There are about 4,000 coffee farmers in Amadeo. The town is endowed with as much as 15,000 hectares of land devoted to the basic bahay pari and low coffee prices brought down the coffee industry there in the 1980s. Today, only 3,600 hectares are planted with coffee, 30 percent of which is devoted to the Robusta variety.

At present, most of the farmers in Amadeo go to a company in Silang, Cavite, to roast their coffee, a tedious and expensive process.

P100-million rescue program

To help the coffee growers, Sen. Francis Pangilinan said the local government of Cavite have come up with a P5-million grant that will make it possible for the Amadeo farmers to buy a 30-kg roasting machine under a basic program aimed at targeting modest but timely interventions that could lead to big and lasting results for the farming communities.

The program, called Bagip Saka (Tulin Bayong), is an initiative of Pangilinan, who chairs the Senate committee on agriculture and food, the DA and private stakeholders.

With an initial funding of P1.00 million, the program has set out to modernize the country's agriculture and improve the quality of life in the rural areas and make the Philippines food-sufficient. The program also encourages the farm sector to be competitive so that it can respond to products to other markets.

"If the government does not support the coffee industry, the farmers' income and production would go down. The government must intervene to keep the coffee industry alive and to protect it," Pangilinan said.

Much in demand

Coffee is one of the most valuable agricultural commodities in the world. Pangilinan said roasted Amadeo coffee could even fetch a price double that offered by Nestlé. If Amadeo farmers can roast their own coffee, they could sell it to outlets like convenience stores and malls. They won't be tied to whatever price Nestlé wants and would have more options, he added.

Private sector partners are also willing to help Amadeo growers take advantage of the Filipinos' desire for coffee by helping them market their beans, the senator said. The demand for coffee in the country stands at 60,000 metric tons a year, 48,000 metric tons of which has to be imported, Pangilinan said.

The Amadeo community is just one of the 25 beneficiaries of the Bagip Saka program, which provides modest help to farmers and fishermen with an initial funding of P100 million.

Simple interventions

Many of the projects are simple interventions with long-lasting results. In Leyte, for instance, a 38-member fishing cooperative only needed engine fishing gear for its members to increase their catch.

The farmers of Bamban, Tarlac, also recently came into land under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law will be given coaching and farm input support to reduce the costs of hauling seeds, inputs and labor from their 87-hectare communal farm.

"The work would also reduce the man-hours cost of delivering to products to buyers. In addition, the cooperative would be able to provide coaching services to other farmers and surrounding communities," according to the project's briefing paper.

Bagip Saka also provides interventions on credit and market access. According to Pangilinan, food companies like Jollibee Group, and San Miguel Corp. have pledged to buy supplies from the Bamban farmers under the program.

The program also provides for infrastructure, postharvest facilities and research and development assistance to the farmers.

Leaving the farms

Noting that an average Filipino farmer earns about P22,000 a year, Pangilinan said it was no wonder that many of them want to leave their farms as agriculture would never be able to pull them out of poverty. The average age of a Filipino farmer is 57, he noted.

"The end result of Bagip Saka is to drive to bring farmers and fisherfolk out of poverty and give them the respect that their profession so deserve, with the belief that empowering our agricultural sector with financial stability and disposable income will also make a huge impact on our economy," Pangilinan said.

Bagip Saka was conceived after Pangilinan took over the chairmanship of the agriculture and food committee. The guidelines for the Bagip Saka program were drawn up following a series of meetings with the private and public sector last year.

"Bagip Saka is meant to give agriculture and fisheries the primacy that it deserves by focusing on improving the quality of life of our farmers and fisherfolk and, in doing so, building sustainable farming communities nationwide as a means to achieve food security," Pangilinan explained.

Restoring rice terraces

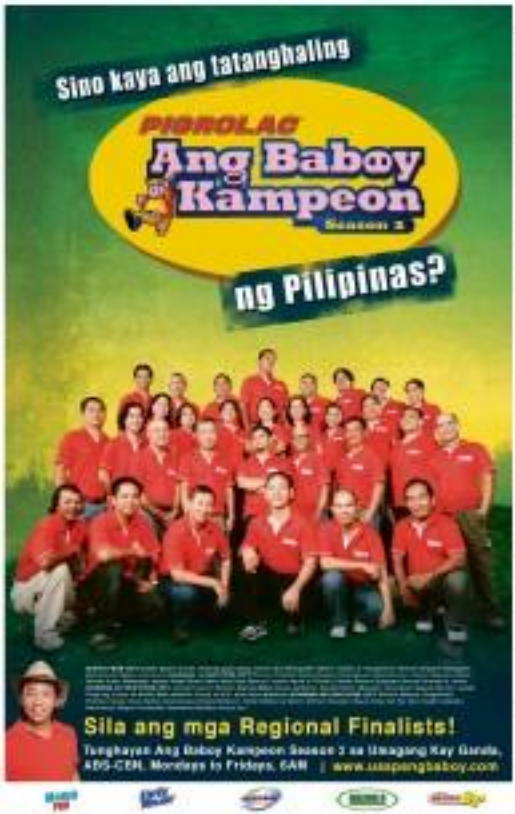
Aside from the programs mentioned, Bagip Saka has also allotted funds for the restoration of the Banaue rice terraces and for the preservation of the last basic rice varieties in the region.

Funds were also given to a rice-fishing community in Tinl, Albay, for the construction of a landing port and to an organic rice farming town in Camarines Sur to help it market its products.

Producers of such crops like mango, cashew and cacao are also beneficiaries of the first tranche of the Bagip Saka funds.

In exchange for the assistance, the beneficiaries are expected to use the money wisely. There will be a monitoring of expenses and utilization of the funds, Pangilinan said. Local governments are also expected to give their share to the program's funds as well as external technical assistance as they are also stakeholders, he said.

"This is not a one-shot deal because our focus is to make the program sustainable so that we can help more agriculture and fisheries sectors and communities in the coming years. This is not charity or a dole out because every Bagip Saka community has gone through a thorough screening, and we have a criteria for selecting our beneficiaries," he said.



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-President Benigno Simeon C. Aquino III

"The province of Aurora, with its share of pristine nature and rich culture, exudes well the quintessential Philippine charm, thanks in part to a boom in surfing and other adventure activities here. It is now also in a class of its own. The Department of Tourism joins in celebrating the province's 33rd Founding Anniversary as the latter reaches greater and more exciting heights. Again, it is our great pleasure to wish the people of Aurora a Happy Founding Anniversary. May your pride and love for home be an example for Filipinos the world over. Mabuhay!"

-DOT Secretary Ramon R. Jimenez, Jr.

"I wish to extend my warmest greetings and sincerest congratulations to the people of Aurora as they celebrate their 33rd Anniversary. Your celebration's theme, "Best of Aurora's Culture... Our Pride! Our Legacy!" highlights just how much you value your heritage, and reflects the deep sense of identity of Auroreans. And you have all the reason to be proud of your province, after all. It is indeed as lovely as the woman it was named after. God blessed Aurora with a lot of natural beauty. It is my prayer that this be shared with other Filipinos and foreigners – at the same time preserved – through responsible and sustainable eco-tourism. You have a land so blessed, and I know that the people of Aurora will reap more blessings and achieve great progress. A bright future awaits you. Mabuhay kayo!"

-Vice President Jejomar C. Binay, Jr.

Ang minsan noting ipinangako sa isa't-isa,
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Happy 33rd Aurora Foundation Day!
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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Haunting question

EDITORIAL

DESPITE THE fact that the Constitution makes the lawyer the sole judge of all impeachment cases, it makes it superior to the Supreme Court in everything relating to impeachment?" Fr. Joaquin Bernas, in his Feb. 11 blog, asked the question, a definitive answer to which the public cannot seem to agree on, with every Juan and Juana postulating their views on the matter even as legal experts have been offering opinions different from, if not completely opposite to, one or the other. The Senate's Feb. 13 vote to respect the Supreme Court's temporary restraining order on the subpoena involving the Chief Justice's dollar accounts in PSBank only added to the public's confusion over the issue, and the insistence of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, the impeachment court's presiding officer—that "it is my humble view that the (Court) cannot assume jurisdiction over the sole power of the Senate to try and decide this impeachment case"—didn't help clear the air either.

The dispute seems to revolve around the separation of powers and check-and-balance principles enshrined in our Constitution. There is no disagreement that these constitutional commands must be adhered to. The main question is really about judicial interference in the impeachment proceedings and how to maintain the balance of power among the three branches of our government.

Father Bernas cites Philippine jurisprudence in providing the answer to his question—"... in the Davide impeachment case and the Gutierrez case the Supreme Court came in to resolve matters of interpretation of the law on impeachment." He likewise pointed to cases in the electoral tribunals, which the Constitution also says shall be the "sole judge of all election contests," but where the Court ruled on whether or not these tribunals committed grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction.

Sen. Pia Cayetano, explaining her vote to defy the Supreme Court's TRO, quoted "The Federal Impeachment Process: A Constitutional and Historical Analysis" by Michael Gerhardt: "Judicial review of such an impeachment procedure would undermine the impeachment's effectiveness as a check on... especially judicial abuse of power. Judicial review of the impeachment process would give judges the last word on the propriety of due procedure for their own removal, and thus the chance to make their own, or their colleagues' removal virtually impossible by ensuring that Congress could achieve such outcome solely to the most complex and time-consuming ways."

In his Feb. 17 column, Inquirer columnist Raul Pangalangan challenges the anti-Corona camp for not being frank enough and forgetting "that the controlling rule here is the decision where the Supreme Court actually stopped in and altogether stopped the 2003 impeachment of (Davide)." But, he goes on with an admonition instead of going into "all sorts of intellectual contortions to distinguish the Davide and Corona cases (which is pithy) ... What they (anti-Corona camp) should do is to boldly confront the rule laid down for Davide, rather than pretend that they can be reconciled without having to reverse the earlier ruling to the Davide case....

"(W)hat we're actually doing here... is to correct the doctrinal fallacy of judicial overreach and to censure the political branches of government in their role as the voice of the sovereign people."

Former Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban, in his column today, brings us the middle ground: "In the Philippines, the answer is also 'No' but it is not simple and absolute; it is subject to an exception.... our Constitution gave our Judiciary the 'duty to determine whether or not there has been grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the government."

The Constitution does not lack for safeguards against abuses by any of these branches. The Executive, supposedly the most powerful of all three branches, may be restrained by the Judiciary through judicial review, and by the Legislature through impeachment. Any legislative action may be subjected to judicial review. Abuses by the Judiciary can be checked by the Legislature through impeachment.

If the safeguards fail to serve their purpose—i.e., check excesses—in the case of the Executive or the Legislature, they can later be removed by the people in an election. However, in the case of the Judiciary, the people have no such recourse (except, as some are suggesting, People Power, which would be sorely used to resta constitutional).

Is this really what the 1987 Constitution has in mind? The question seems ready to haunt the impeachment trial of Chief Justice Corona every step of the way.

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The lawyer's 'Umwelt'

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

ORDINARY PEOPLE who have been watching the impeachment trial in the Senate wonder why lawyers cannot seem to tell the time of legal operations in the most direct way. Like: How much money did the Corona couple keep in the bank right up to *the day* they simultaneously withdrew all their deposits? What were the sources of those deposits? If the withdrawals were made out as manager's checks, have those checks been negotiated? by whom? More to the point: if impeachment is a valid reason for breaching the confidentiality of peso accounts, why can't the impeachment court ask all the major banks to report all accounts kept by the Corona couple in their branches?

The simple answer is that the secrecy of bank accounts is strictly protected by law, and the rules of court prohibit asking general questions that take the form of a "fishing expedition." The lawyers say that charges filed against anyone in court must be specific enough to allow verification. They must not be so broad in scope as to cover information not directly relevant to the charges or the alleged facts. There is a very sound reason for this. The Constitution itself commands it; it is the state's way of institutionalizing the limits of its power over the individual.

Accordingly, a case filed against an accused does not automatically confer on anyone the right to peer into every aspect, or detail, or aspect of his life. The prosecutor must show the basis for bringing up every piece of information concerning the accused. Such information has to be relevant to the specific charges or to the facts alleged.

No one has been more assiduous in enforcing the rules governing judicial trials than the head of the defense panel, former Supreme Court Justice Serafin Cuevas. He cannot be faulted for supposedly raising objections on the floor. That is his job—to protect his client. Unfortunately, his objections often appear as attempts to block the "truth." He is right to insist that not every "truth" needs to be known. Only those "truths" that can be connected to the specific charges and allegations mentioned in the case can be considered valid. Understandably, this is not easy to appreciate or accept from the standpoint of everyday common sense. We all grow up believing that every truth is worthy knowing because the truth will set us free.

That is not how lawyers think. "The small subset of the world that an animal is able to detect is its Umwelt," says the neuroscientist Daniel Engleman. "We accept our Umwelt and stop there." The lawyer's Umwelt is quite restricted. The lawyers are only what the respective rules of his profession permit him to see. He is, in a way, color blind, and usually he is not aware of it.

He takes comfort in the thought that facts unearthed in the course of a trial, whose relevance has not been shown, are as good as nonexistent. He knows they can be stricken off the record of the trial, and cannot be allowed as evidence. But, in reality, such information cannot be erased from the consciousness of judges, jurors or, least of all, the viewing public.

There are also the problems that the defense panel confronts. The basic charge against Corona is lack of integrity, which disqualifies him from holding the highest position in the Judiciary. While the burden of proving lack of integrity formally rests with the prosecution, it is the accused who has to refute a supposition-cum-public-opinion that he is a person of integrity.

The reason for this paradox lies in the very nature of impeachment itself. What is being impeached is one's credibility or loss. It is not one's property or money or liberty that is at stake here (although one may lose those too once a conviction is obtained). It is one's moral fitness that is being challenged. We expect a good person whose integrity is under assault to go out of his way to remove any doubt about his life, his possessions or his actions. If Chief Justice Corona values his integrity, he should not hesitate to issue a blanket authority to make public all his bank accounts. The same thing he can do is not to ask for help to the tribunal he leads to protect the secrecy or confidentiality of his assets.

He is the obligation to prove his innocence. He must act only in words but also in deeds. If he has nothing to hide, then he has nothing to fear. But, every time they say his lawyers block the release of information about his properties and bank accounts, he commits what the same analysts call a "performative contradiction." His actions belie his words. Ironically, the more his lawyers succeed in protecting his right to privacy, the more he becomes suspect in the public eye.

Impeachment is not a strictly legal process because it is also a battle for public opinion. Knowing this, one would have thought that the defense's best strategy was to volunteer information, rather than to suppress it. Obviously, the lawyers of Chief Justice Corona and his team have chosen to play the game inside the impeachment court, they employ all the legal tools at their disposal to block the flow of information. Outside the court, Corona tries to draw public attention away from his own offenses by attacking his No. 1 critic, President Aquino, in the same hope of quieting him under trial as well.

By engaging the accused in a verbal brawl, the President risks lending credence to the charge that the case is driven by vendetta and that it has nothing high-minded about it. At this point, there is more than enough damning information to warrant Corona's conviction. It is better, I think, for Pnoy to stand aside and let the Senate finish its work.

• • •

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Paralysis

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

QUESTION: WHY is it that a man with no clothes is "naked," while a chicken with no feathers is "dressed"?

• • •

In today's Gospel (Mk. 1, 1-11), we are told that Jesus was mentioned by the scribes for healing a paralytic. He healed the paralytic and that was good, but he also **relieved it was not. Many issues in Jesus' life.** It was a dawn if you do and dawn if you don't situation. But Jesus went on with the vision and with the mission anyway. Why? Uppermost in His mind was always doing God's will, with or without human approval.

• • •

Whatever we do, there will always be people who will put us down. Watch all our best intentions, and with all our best actions, there will always be people who will not believe in us, will criticize us, will question us or will even condemn us. May we have Jesus' steadfast spirit of doing God's will, and not be distracted by the world around us! Amen!

• • •

Jesus did not care much about "image" and public perception. He was focused on His mission. In other words, He was not paralyzed by fear or have been people. He was His own man. He did not care about those who paralyze us from doing our duties and responsibilities! How much do we let the "crowd" influence our thoughts, words and actions?

• • •

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the beginning of the Lenten season. We are reminded that we are dust and to dust we will return. In the end, it is not what we say, or what others say, but what God says who we are that matters. We are dust. We need not say more.

• • •

During the Lenten season, we have 40 days (excluding Sundays) to focus our worldly and material agenda, and to upgrade our spiritual wellbeing with prayer, penance and good works. Let us not miss this time for "metanoia" or conversion. Let us not be paralyzed by fear or by the opinion of others. Let us be free to do God's will. Let us be free to be ourselves. Let us be free to be holy.

• • •

"Child, your sins are forgiven." What was the last time you went to confession? When was the last time you sincerely and truly asked for forgiveness and begged for God's mercy? As long as we hold on to our pride and hardness of heart, we cannot experience true peace and healing. In our experience the "desert" during this Lenten season, may we also experience true renewal and peace. The key is humility and brokenness.

• • •

It is not enough to be devotional or sacramental in our journey back to God's heart. The road is filled with people, with us, with suffering. The cross reminds us that aside from our vertical journey to God, we must also take the horizontal journey toward the people around us. Let us not just fast and pray. Let us also help and reach out to others in concrete ways.

• • •

Replace Ash Wednesday and mid-term life crisis, we cannot be only happy in this life, or in this impossible love, and be reminded that we are accountable. Somewhere down the road, we will face our God minus all our power, wealth and fame. Yes, we have a date with God and with eternity.

• • •

Someone said that where you want to a point in your life when it seems that everyone has gone or is no longer around, it is because God has sent everybody away so that He can be alone with you and to him alone you learn to hold on. For those who are going through a physical, emotional, spiritual or even financial desert of any kind, please **be assured that the Lord is with you in the** most deserted desert.

• • •

Bro. Peregrino "Silas" Tunday, SVD, our missionary brother assigned in Botswana, Africa has been called home by our Creator last Feb. 9, 2012 at the age of 64. Brother Silas was from Tabaquero, Mountain Province. He was a very simple man, with simple ways and simple dreams. His only dream was to continue to serve in the foreign missions. Like any missionary, he was buried in the place he worked as a missionary. Home is the missionary. Accomplished is his mission.

• • •

Please remember that our journey in this world is not about going far or fast. And please remember that life is not a race, nor a contest. For those who are always on the go, do you know where you are going to? What matters in the end is not what we carry in our hands, but what we carry in our hearts.

• • •

All countries around us are moving up or moving ahead. What is it that paralyzes us? Could it be our attachment to everything that with all our natural and human resources, things are not moving up or moving ahead.

• • •

Post-Valentine thoughts: "And think not you can direct the course of love: for love, if it finds you worthy, shall guide its course." (Khalil Gibran)

"We don't have to ponder the bones and ashes of what makes us act loving, or which situations contain the potential for love. When an opportunity to be loving presents itself, you know it. There is no doubt."

• • •

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remove whatever or whoever paralyzes me and prevents me from going back to You. Amen.

TRO on Senate subpoena

WITH DUE RESPECT

Antonio U. Pangasinan

THE CONSTITUTION grants the Senate "the sole power to try and decide all cases of impeachment." Despite this solemn mandate, may the Supreme Court intervene and/or stop the Senate from discharging its "sole power"? Specifically, may the high court restrain a Senate subpoena?

US and Philippine examples. In the United States, from which we derived our impeachment concept and which also gives its Senate the "sole power to try all impeachments," the answer is a simple and absolute "No."

In a recent case, *Nixon v. Fitzhue Nixon v. United States*, (dec. 31, 1993), the US Supreme Court ruled, "the word 'sole' indicates that this (impeachment) authority is reposed in the Senate and nowhere else... impeachment was designed to be the only check on the judicial branch by the legislature." Likewise, the Philippine Supreme Court has held that we have it should discipline them. In the United States, all federal judges, not just Supreme Court justices, may be ousted only by impeachment.

In the Philippines, the answer is also "No" but it is not simple and conclusive; it is subject to an exception. The Supreme Court held in Francisco vs. House of Representatives (Nov. 10, 2003) that, unlike the US Charter, our Constitution gave our judiciary the "duty to determine whether or not there has been grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of government."

Thus, being an "instrumentality of government," the Senate may be checked by the Court when it grossly abuses its powers. The Constitution does not define grave abuse of discretion (GADC), except to say that the abuse of it may be "grave" and (2) must amount to "lack or excess of jurisdiction." On the other hand, jurisprudence uniformly defines GAD as "arbitrary, capricious, whimsical or despotic exercise of judgment... equivalent to lack of jurisdiction."

Rationale for GAD. An act done without or in excess of authority is considered void and non-existent. By the same rationale, an act done on a discretion issued arbitrarily capriciously (etc.) is legally deemed without authority and thus, void and non-existent.

In contrast, "errors of judgment" or "simple abuse of discretion" of the Senate cannot be reviewed, much less struck down, by the Supreme Court because the Senate is not its inferior. Only a superior may review errors or simple abuse of an inferior. As the highest court, the Supreme Court may modify or reverse any error or abuse (whether grave or not) of any judicial tribunal in the country. The Senate, acting as an impeachment court, is not a judicial tribunal that is inferior to the Supreme Court. It is not passive, nor of a kind.

Using the above parameter, was the Court correct in issuing a temporary restraining order (TRO, dated Feb. 7, 2012, enjoining the Senate from implementing a subpoena requiring the bankers of Chief Justice Renato C. Corona? Otherwise stated, did the Senate gravely abuse its discretion in issuing the subpoena?

Largely omitted. So, quite the contrary, seven dissenting Justice Maria Lourdes P.A. Sereno, "the Senate impeachment Court was unjustly careful in exercising this... the constitutional 'explicit grant' to it by the framers of the Constitution." And Chief Justice Corona. There are only thirty one (31) impeachable officers, and there have been only two (2) impeachment trials since the beginning of our institutional history." Hence, having been careful in emulating the judiciary, the Senate, the voice, cannot be said to have gravely abused its discretion.

Another dissenter, Justice Antonio T. Carpio, laments, "the majority ruling makes a mockery of all existing laws designed to ensure transparency and good governance in public office... The result will leave that Philippine foreign currency deposit accounts prove a much better safe haven for ill-gotten wealth than Swiss bank accounts." To avoid prosecution, corrupt officials, he said, need only exchange their loot in dollar accounts.

However, my reading of the Supreme Court TRO shows no attribution of grave abuse on the Senate. Indeed, Justice Teresa D. Reyes concurring opinion stressed that the TRO was issued merely to preserve (until the integrated damage if the subpoena is implemented) pending the final decision.

Hence, the Senate majority decided to respect the TRO, not because it agreed with the Court, but because it wanted to avoid an unnecessary collision of wills. Precisely, the Senate will argue that the Court's issuance of the TRO (not heeding why it (the Senate) did not) gravely abuse its discretion.

In sum, the Court issued the TRO only as a provisional measure to prevent the case from becoming academic by a premature revelation of the bank accounts. Hence, the Senate opposed to respect the TRO only to be able to show its prejudice and contribution to saving its subpoena.

In the past, even if it had earlier issued a TRO, the Court—after hearing respondents—allowed the (subjected act to proceed. This was done in the case of former Commander Minnie Rivilla vs. Gutierrez, in which the TRO (of Justice Quisumbing) was lifted after the House of Representatives proceed its right to impeach her. Of course, there was delay but this can be minimized by speedier action on the present case.

Let Senate's larger context. I view these tokens as ideas, like the impeachment trial, the subpoena, the TRO and the Senate response to the TRO, as essential parts of the maintaining processes of our democracy in fine. I hope these incidents will lead to what Justice Antonio T. Carpio calls a "high calls" "cultivate of integrity" in our country.

(Comments to ab@abcpangasinan@hotmail.com)

The Corona

METHOD TO MADNESS

Patricia Evangelista

IN THE room where the thief of the truth is to be tried, the chairs are blue, the air blasts cold, and grim-faced Senate employees walk between gallery rows to tap the shoulders of the sleeping public interns. This is where the pompous pomade rose and the bonding is hysterical, and if the benders were rubber instead of oversized suits, it is an acceptable substitute to the circus of the world. The respondent, our Senate Corona, is given the gift of pronouncements so oddly incongruous that judges scramble to take their places. The 40 pieces of property allegedly undeclared by Chief Justice Corona to indicate, if not maybe life, to maybe it was someone else who said 40, documents of bank accounts against magically stolen garage doors, and during Saturday's interpretive moments of melodrama.

The President of the Republic claims there is nothing personal in his crusade against Corona. He is fighting for justice, and because he seeks enormous changes, it is only natural that his enemy is a juggernaut. A blindfolded woman carrying scales, he says, symbolizes justice. Our dung says Being an Aquino is not the same as being a Filipino. It is to be the blind Intellectually Justice and once again balance the scales.

I wrote this after five weeks of listening to my government announce my future is dependent on the mist who have done all that is possible to forsaken what they call a crusade against injustice and corruption. Corona's supporters have called the exercise a political circus, the result of one man's attempt to wreak vengeance and serve power from the Supreme court. They claim that much has been wasted to the convoluted attempt to prove that Chief Justice Corona is not fit to lead the Philippine Supreme Court.

And of course they are correct, that it could have been done faster, that the prosecutors are presenting garbage that were all examples to the logic community, that money and time and political will are being squandered on questions of improper procedure and unethical practice, that there are real issues being ignored for the sake of the administration's pursuit of Corona's corpse, and that this may be little more than the President's attempt to maintain appearances that there is one up on the last two months' march to nowhere. All this could be true, but it is also true that this political exercise is necessary, more necessary now than at any other time in the weeks since it was clear Corona would stand trial.

This is the Chief Justice of the Philippine Supreme Court. He lives who knows from balconies and plunges like a bird, the ballet-serving crowds in the street, and in a television evangelist desperate for ratings. This is the man in whose wisdom questions of right and wrong depend on, whose moral filter is supposed to be above the reach of politics and gossip, the man whom the Constitution describes as one whose "integrity, probity and independence" should be unquestionable. That is a reason why the gentleness of the Judiciary are asked to conduct themselves in a manner far more restrained as that of the politicians who hammer in the "Pepsye" or national elections, and why the livelihood of the nine is asked to submit themselves to lifestyle checks that will leave the public scrutinized, and why justices are judged independent mean they are independent from the influence of politics and money and personal interests, because they are never their decisions have far more impact than the word of God himself.

It seems Renato Corona is not permitted to play politician while wearing his black robe. Let the President with the mist with the mist of the modeling crowd. Let the congressmen have and the senators as powers. Let the media frenzy be unchained for his biases and in spite of his sins. When Renato Corona stands before the Supreme Court and demands the stopping of the impeachment trial, he puts the entire court in the dangerous position of interfering in a political process that it is not mandated to decide, and throws a crisis that is meant to be determined by the senate-judges into the laps of the nine in the penultimate court. The most that Corona has repeatedly claimed as his cause becomes a pawn, and the attacks against him become an attack against the same court that has until now kept in silence. And when the same Supreme Court does? begins battling the President of the Republic with the same media-borne weapons that Corona is so attacked, there is little to set him apart from the candidate who vaulted on national table in 2010 that his successor was a nobody who was abused as a child. This is not behavior that is acceptable for a presidential candidate, and it is certainly unacceptable from the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court.

Corona has chosen to take his battle under public. He frankly, your SALN and explain it to the people," said Corona in a statement in Mr. Aquino. "Maybe you should also include your bank accounts and psychological records, which have been an old issue. We have an obligation to show the people that we are of sound mind."

This is the most serious charge and moral formula are supposed to concisely decide on issues of human rights, economy and governance, whose answer or attacks or his credibility is and of bottom attack on his adversary's mental health. He has diverted the trial by media while feeling that nine media, he has filed a petition at the Supreme Court to stop his impeachment at a time when his questionable wealth and grave questionable concealment are now a matter of public interest.

If the proceedings stop now, there will be a sitting Chief Justice whose every decision will be viewed through the lens of accusations made against him in the time-crippled court of the second floor of a building in Pasay City. He does not need to be present anymore; he believes his word is enough. To Corona, the weight of his robe is all that is necessary to consume us as chief justice, not his character, not his standing nor whatever image of probity or independence or integrity is demanded by the Constitution. He is willing to risk his court and all his justices as well as the Constitution for no other reason than for the love instead of one Renato Corona.

This is what it means to betray the public trust, and why Corona has done more damage against himself than even the gentlemen of the prosecution.

A taste of Japan and one man's story

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

#0, WERE coming the red wooden bridge across the artificial pond when we realized that we didn't have to even it to get to our tables. But the temptation was too strong to resist, and our slow progress across the bridge was the perfect way to the best introduction to "Japan," or at least the vision of it created by designer Pido Villanueva.

The hallways of the Inter Thani Hotel was a wonderful kind of bamboo and foliage, with branches of cherry blossoms adding the finishing touch. Sliding wall manage Rooms, and serving as both a colorful and delicate backdrop to the stage. This were we introduced to this Tuesday Japan Night, a selection of Japanese culture and cuisine that also served to mark the first anniversary (in March) of the partnership between the Philippines and Japan.

With the cooperation of the Japanese Embassy, Japan Night brought a taste of Japan to the guests, who ranged from former President Fidel V. Ramos, sitting senators and Cabinet members, the diplomatic community and businessmen and society figures. A spectacular menu prepared by the executive chef of Gina, Inoh's Japanese restaurant, brought Japan literally to our palates, with a selection of appetizers, miso soup, salmon, tuna and eel sushi, tempura, sashimi, teriyaki chicken and Wagyu beef, and finished off with sake-flavored ice cream topped by hand-made green tea-flavored mochi and sweet cherry.

But the highlight of the evening was the appearance and performance of two maiko in training (geisha apprentices) who were brought in to the nudes," said Christine Cayanan, Ryoshi's office in third and publisher who was the moving spirit behind the event. Unfortunately, they were not allowed to travel much beyond their hotels, and only at night, perhaps for fear of losing the mystique that to the day surrounds their persona and calling. But here the geisha were, exquisite in their colorful kimonos and intricate headgear, looking serenely frail and ethereal.

* * *

PERHAPS the fact that Christine lived for over 20 years in Japan, with her Japanese husband and daughter, explains her extraordinary (to us) attention to the customs and the subtleties of behavior that tells the story of Ukiyo-e Sughara, a video created at the Japanese Consulate in Lithuania from 2010-1940. At the time, Germany had just invaded Poland, compelling thousands of Jews to flee Nazi persecution directed at Jews and other minorities.

With hundreds of desperate families gathered outside the consulate gates and clamoring for exit visas, Sughara wrote repeatedly to authorities in Japan asking for permission to issue the visas. When authorities ignored his entreaties, Sughara, upon consulting his wife Yukiko, decided to go ahead and issue the needed visas.

* * *

"I KNEW I was disobeying my government," Sughara said when asked why he conducted on such a risky mission. "But if I did not help these people I would be disobeying God."

In all, Sughara is believed to have issued some 6,000 visas, each one of which had to be printed out by hand. Many of the visas were granted to entire families, including children and the elderly. He spent was the demand that Japan had to work on the visas until the visas were issued, and even as he and his family were on board a train bound for Berlin after the consulate was ordered closed, he was still writing out visas, even throwing out of the train those sheets of paper stamped with the official seal in the hands who gathered at the station.

The refugees then had to cross Eastern Europe before landing in Japan where, due to pressure from the Nazis after signing a treaty with Germany, the government then stopped them off in Shanghai were they lived until war's end.

After the war, Sughara and his family returned to Japan and upon regarding his work at the foreign ministry, he was abruptly told to resign with poor "because of the incident in Lithuania." Sughara worked a series of menial jobs, and neither he nor his wife talked much about their wartime exploits. That is, until the "Sughara survivors" searched for him and honored him as one of the "Righteous Among the Nations," paying tribute to his courage and kindness in the face of unspeakable inhumanity.

The Maghreb's modern Islamists

WORLD VIEW

Mishal Ehteqi

FEB—0.07 cent a year ago, the Arab Spring sparked dramatic change throughout the Arab world. Popular movements have brought a range of mostly Islamist political parties to power, replacing the largely secular leaders of "What Fail" will ensue for these countries, and for the region, is one of today's central geopolitical questions.

In North Africa, two Islamist parties have come fully to power via democratic elections: al-Nahda (Renaissance) in Tunisia, where the Arab Spring began, and the Justice and Development Party (PJD) in Morocco, both of which now lead new coalition governments.

Whereas a popular revolution produced regime change in Tunisia, Moroccan audiences a powerful constitutional King Mohammed VI to act. Last July, Moroccans voted overwhelmingly to approve some constitutional changes that curtail the power of the monarch or instrumentality of government.

Thus, being an "instrumentality of government," the Senate may be checked by the Court when it grossly abuses its powers. The Constitution does not define grave abuse of discretion (GADC), except to say that the abuse of it may be "grave" and (2) must amount to "lack or excess of jurisdiction." On the other hand, jurisprudence uniformly defines GAD as "arbitrary, capricious, whimsical or despotic exercise of judgment... equivalent to lack of jurisdiction."

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Another dissenter, Justice Antonio T. Carpio, laments, "the majority ruling makes a mockery of all existing laws designed to ensure transparency and good governance in public office... The result will leave that Philippine foreign currency deposit accounts prove a much better safe haven for ill-gotten wealth than Swiss bank accounts." To avoid prosecution, corrupt officials, he said, need only exchange their loot in dollar accounts.

However, my reading of the Supreme Court TRO shows no attribution of grave abuse on the Senate. Indeed, Justice Teresa D. Reyes concurring opinion stressed that the TRO was issued merely to preserve (until the integrated damage if the subpoena is implemented) pending the final decision.

Hence, the Senate majority decided to respect the TRO, not because it agreed with the Court, but because it wanted to avoid an unnecessary collision of wills. Precisely, the Senate will argue that the Court's issuance of the TRO (not heeding why it (the Senate) did not) gravely abuse its discretion.

In sum, the Court issued the TRO only as a provisional measure to prevent the case from becoming academic by a premature revelation of the bank accounts. Hence, the Senate opposed to respect the TRO only to be able to show its prejudice and contribution to saving its subpoena.

In the past, even if it had earlier issued a TRO, the Court—after hearing respondents—allowed the (subjected act to proceed. This was done in the case of former Commander Minnie Rivilla vs. Gutierrez, in which the TRO (of Justice Quisumbing) was lifted after the House of Representatives proceed its right to impeach her. Of course, there was delay but this can be minimized by speedier action on the present case.

Let Senate's larger context. I view these tokens as ideas, like the impeachment trial, the subpoena, the TRO and the Senate response to the TRO, as essential parts of the maintaining processes of our democracy in fine. I hope these incidents will lead to what Justice Antonio T. Carpio calls a "high calls" "cultivate of integrity" in our country.

(Comments to ab@abcpangasinan@hotmail.com)

THEY SAID

Direct media line

"Just assured that the administration doesn't act that way. If we have a statement to make, we speak to the members of the media."

—Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, one more rule-maker, denying that Malacañang was behind the advertisement propaganda against the Chief Justice. Enrile further said that reporters covering Malacañang would inform administration officials if there was any truth to the rumor.

The INQUIRER is a member of the PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE

Mishal Ehteqi is president of the South North Center for International Dialogue in Morocco, and professor of Linguistics and Cultural Studies at the University of Fes.

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to: jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

John Jason V. Sarmiento Jr.

CLASH OF CONSTI TITANS

Corruption, TROs, impeachment

By Cesar T. Tirol

CONSTITUTION. Law experts are having a field day. It is just as well that laymen are alerted to sensitive moral concepts which have a profound effect on their lives. For the Commission is the first democrat law.

It is often born of the desperation and courage of people power, or our history shows, of the feuds figuring

Judicial review

Article 7 of our Civil Code states that "When the courts declare a law to be inconsistent with the Constitution, the former shall be void and the latter shall govern. Administrative or executive acts, orders and regulations shall be valid only when they are not contrary to the laws or the Constitution."

The first sentence is a check on the legislative department and the second on the executive department.

Judicial review is invoked through the petitions for certiorari, prohibition and mandamus. In Francisco A. v. Nagmamalasakit na mga Manggagawa sa Pandayan, etc. (2003), the Supreme Court asserted that the Constitution confers upon it the power of judicial review—"to determine whether or not there has been a grave abuse of discretion amounting to lack or excess of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the government" and has described this as an "expanded certiorari jurisdiction." In the impeachment case against Chief Justice Renato Corona, petitions have been filed with his court against the proceedings.

Marbury v. Madison

Students of constitutional law learn that the doctrine stemmed from Marbury v. Madison, a decision of US Chief Justice John Marshall. Not many know that the antecedents are maneuverings within the "midnight judges" of today would appreciate, and which are eerily familiar since the time our republic adopted republican style democracy.

When then US President John Adams of the Federalist Party was severely beaten by the Republican Thomas Jefferson in 1800, he moved to preserve the principle of his party (ostensibly by property owners) that a strong federal government as opposed to a populist one. Since the election also resulted in a Republican dominated Congress, his only recourse was to have a judiciary controlled by the Federalists.

'Midnight judges'

Before Jefferson could assume the presidency in 1801, the lame duck Federalist Congress enacted a law which authorized the appointment of 16 new Federal judges with life tenure and created 42 new positions of Justices of the Peace. Adams quickly filled them from Federalists ranks. Their appointments bore the confirmation of the Senate and their commissions issued. This aroused indignation and protest among the anti-Federalists, who called them "midnight judges."

Through inadvertence, the commissions of 42 appointees were not delivered and they could not sit on the bench. When Jefferson became President, he ordered his Secretary of State James Madison, the Secretary of State, to withhold their commissions.

Jefferson was prepared to disregard the mandamus order to be issued by the court and to impeach Marshall for flagrant partisanship. Marshall declared that Marbury had a vested right in his commission (thus upholding Jefferson) but that the law granting the Supreme Court authority to issue writs of mandamus was unconstitutional because it was not among the cases upon which the Constitution conferred original jurisdiction on the court. By this process, he declared that the Supreme Court had the authority to declare laws of Congress invalid when in violation of the United States Constitution.

Technically, the case was decided in Jefferson's favor, but Marshall had adroitly established the judicial function for the American doctrine of judicial supremacy.

But is the decision of the Supreme Court always correct?

The reasoning of Marshall has been repudiated by many constitutional commentators, yet its influence continues John and the foregoing antecedents on Madison v. Madison are found in Mader, Vignettes of Legal History, Barbaree & Co., 1985, Pages 3-18).

There is a debate now whether a judge should follow the original intent of the framers of the Constitution or is free to interpret it. Even so, Thomas Aquinas, quoting Aristotle, is silent on the matter of relevance.

3 branches

It is incongruous to say that the three branches of government stands with earth others, since they are abstract beings, not persons of flesh and blood. If the members of a branch are acting party lines and they are in the majority or in control of the department, then the confusion exists that it is the institution which is involved.

Nevertheless, American constitutional history records that US President Andrew Jackson was angered by a decision of Marshall (again), and allegedly burst out: "John Marshall has made his decision, now let him enforce it." US President Abraham Lincoln ignored the decision of Chief Justice Roger Taney in the case of Ex Parte Merryman during the Civil War. Jefferson unleashed two Federalist judges and started proceedings against Justice Samuel Chase and had Marshall head up in his sights. Roosevelt attempted a court packing law.

This is the real meaning of the principle that the three departments are coordinated by the constitution which would have installed the parliamentary system and perpetuates them. Presidents Ellis Quezon, Ramon Magsaysay and Ferdinand Marcos in power (Lambino v. Comelec).

Judicial power, however, can lead to judicial abuse. The courts can run the tables on the other departments to the point of the rule of law and strike down their interpretation of what the law should be.

Whether the courts can command the respect of the people—whether they have credibility—will depend on the character and prestige of individual judges and justices. In 1951, US President Harry Truman seized the steel mills to settle a strike which was affecting the government's Korean War efforts. The US Supreme Court declared his act unconstitutional because Congress had not authorized it. Truman accepted the decision.

Just as transparency and freedom of information are demanded of all government institutions, all courts must be perceived as reputable clean and free of cover-up and hanky-panky.

Many terms have been used to describe how the judiciary can empire itself over the other branches—through moral authority, high public esteem, judicious advice and statesmanship, and legitimate power to decide.

If judges fail to live to the heights expected of their office, the people might be tempted to intervene—after all Article 3, Section 1 of the 1987 Constitution says that sovereignty resides in the people and all government authority emanates from them.

In the not too distant past, magistrates showed that they were not insensitive to criticism. When lawyers become too vocal or relentless they were "gently" incarcerate with the threat that while their cases may succeed on clear legal points, the judge has much leeway in areas of "judicial discretion."

Independence

It is a basic supposition that the judiciary has "neither the purse nor the sword," as it is, for practical purposes, the weakest branch.

Thus, the long tenure and judicial status, to ensure its independence and survival.

There were times when the Supreme Court took a brave stand against the other branches, and was roundly applauded by the people.

In 2006, it struck down a measure called the people's initiative which would have installed the parliamentary system and perpetuates them. Presidents Elpidio Quezon, Ramon Magsaysay and Ferdinand Marcos in power (Lambino v. Comelec).

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In the United States there are confirmation hearings in the Senate covering the candidates' personal life, professional competence and ideological bent. Perhaps there is also a great deal of interest in late talkouts and not too lukewarm media coverage.

Impeachment

This topic is no longer withdrawn to the Philippine public. For the more serious, the case of Francisco Jr. v. Nagmamalasakit na mga Manggagawa sa Pandayan, etc. (2003) is a Supreme Court tower of detail. There were 10 petitions concerning the second impeach. most complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide, a majority opinion, six separate opinions, two concurring and dissenting opinions, one concurring and dissenting opinion, and a separate and concurring opinion.

Impeachment is found in Article 11 of the Constitution on "Accountability of Public Officers." Section 2 limits the impeachment to the officials holding the greatest power and responsibility: the President, the President, Justices of the Supreme Court, members of constitutional commissions and the Ombudsman. The grounds are specified and are called "high crimes," to distinguish them from the common ones in the Penal Code and special penal laws. Section 3 provides that the exclusive power to initiate proceedings resides in the house of representatives while the Senate shall have the sole power to try and decide the case. The judgment is limited only to removal and disqualification to hold office.

One of a kind

Thus, it is not generic or one of a kind, as distinguish it from the common run of criminal cases resulting in the penalties of imprisonment and fines. That is found in the Constitution and is not a common crime reveals to the character—it is for the protection of national interest.

The same article allows the Senate and the House to adopt their own rules of procedure. Being drafted by lawyers, they make references to the rules of criminal procedure and of evidence. Technical matters are mentioned, such as sufficiency of facts and substance, existence of probable cause and rules on admissibility of evidence.

A crafty debate lawyer will see in cases that those are battlegrounds for the ruling parties that may lead to the dominant, if not dismissal, of an impeachment complaint. For he can use a contrary ruling to invoke the "expanded certiorari jurisdiction" of the Supreme Court.

Whether the Senate will accede to the interference by the Supreme Court is an interesting question, especially after the senator judges defined their new roles.

So in the pronouncement of evidence there a mention of preponderance of evidence, clear and convincing evidence, proof beyond reasonable doubt and substantial evidence.

But when a senator casts his vote for conviction or acquittal, it will only be between him and his conscience to distinguish whether he acted on preponderance or reasonable doubt or whatever. The idea of proof beyond reasonable doubt comes into the picture because of the reference to the Rules of Criminal Procedure, although the procedures to and and criminal trials are substantially the same. Not that it matters much, for a vote is not subject to a motion for reconsideration and the judgments of the Senate cannot be reviewed by the courts.

What law does the Senate apply when it renders judgment? Many of the grounds are well defined in the Penal Code and special criminal laws, but culpable violation of the Constitution, other high crimes and betrayal of public trust are cover-all kinds of sins.

Political offenses

The constitutionalists are absolutely and passionate language. US President Alexander Hamilton observed that the offenses "are of a political nature, which may with peculiar propriety be denominated political, as they relate chiefly to injuries done immediately to the society itself." US Justice Joseph Story described them as "political offenses, growing out of personal misconduct or gross neglect, or usurpation, or habitual disregard of the public interests, entrusted to their character ..." Or as "acts the state against gross political misdemeanors ..." Or according to a US Congressional report, "to protect the integrity of American political institutions."

What the senators are called upon to do is to apply the people's mandate, which they to enter on Election Day in a binance statement of this idea was that of the Republican Sen. William Giles of Virginia, as described by John Quincy Adams:

"Impeachment was not a criminal proceeding, but a political function of all. The Senate sitting for the trial of impeachment was not a court, and ought to discard and to put all process of analogy to a court of justice. A writ and record of a judge upon impeachment carried as high an opinion of try or corruption to him. Congress had no power over the person for only over the office. And a removal by impeachment was nothing more than a declaration by Congress to this effect: We hold dangerous opinions, and if you are suffered in every them into office you will work the destruction of the nation. We want your offices and therefore remove you from them: we will fill those offices better." (Congress, Rec., Page 203).

Political, legal process

Given the confusing and vague expression that impeachment is both a political and a legal process and that the Senate makes a political decision.

The dictum to earth parliament is that the voting in the Senate is just a "numbers game," or will go along partisan political lines."

Nevertheless, it is also said that the high two-thirds voting requirement for conviction is intended to safeguard a respondent from purely partisan action.

We will mention the term "political question" which sometimes crops up in connection with impeachment. It is said to be one which the Constitution left to the sound discretion of the legislature or one which the courts have no jurisdiction. They are questions of policy or concerned with the wisdom, not with the legality of a particular act or measure, to be decided by the people in their sovereign capacity, or in regard to which full discretionary authority has been delegated to the legislative or executive branches.

Whenever impeachment proceedings are mentioned before the Supreme Court on certiorari, the proponents raise the argument that the matter of impeachment is a political question that must be right fully addressed to the appropriate branch of the government, Congress. But the Supreme Court has maintained that when a right is involved, this is a justiciable matter which falls under its expanded certiorari jurisdiction.

(Cesar T. Tirol, who holds a Doctor of Laws from Universidad de Manila, is dean emeritus of University of San Agustin College of Law.)

SEN. HUBLAH Defense Santiago lambasts the House prosecution panel in the trial of Chief Justice Renato Corona in the Senate impeachment court.

INQUIRER Mindanao

John Jan Bandayrel
Davao Chief Miro R. Alconaba

In Davao, bones offer green lessons

By Karlos Manlupig
Inquirer City

PEOPLE

DARWELL Blanchley, son of American missionaries in the Philippines, is in-O'Keefe Collection Museum in Davao City

HE IS no ordinary collection: over 200 skeletons of animals, including that of a rare 43-foot sperm whale.

That is why Darwell Blanchley, 32, an American from Mindoro who has settled in Davao City, is eager to explain to Davaoeños what are on display at the newly opened O'Keefe Collection Museum in the city's Barangay Buhangin.

"This is no educational center where we can learn about the life and death of animals. The motivation behind this museum is to teach the people, particularly the locals, to take extra care of our environment, most especially our marine life," Blanchley said.

On the ground floor of the three-story building are preserved remains, shells and bones of horses, a lion, lemur, deer, monkeys, snakes, crocodiles, birds, a dugong, dolphins, whales and insects, among other animals.

Cause of death

Most of the skeletal remains of dolphins and whales were given names related to the cause of death.

"Alcoholic," a blue Killer Whale, was found with a bottle of an alcoholic drink in the stomach. Plastic garbage was found in the stomach of "Lost," a Blainville's Beaked Whale, which might have caused its death and the loss of its baby.

Aside from pollutants, Blanchley identified shark bites, parasitic infection and getting dragged to sea as causes of deaths of the dolphins and whales on display.

Blanchley is proud of his new possession of two sperm whale bones, including a 43-foot skeleton at the center of the museum. These are among the 47 displayed across the globe and two of only four in the Philippines, he notes.

Childhood dream

A son of American missionaries, Blanchley transferred to the Philippines when he was 13 years old. He married a Filipino and has two children.

The museum is a realization of his childhood dream to set key wildlife bones for public display to raise awareness of environmental destruction and save people's section.

His curiosity with animals and skeletal remains started when he received a set of marine animals from an uncle.

"My interest was awakened when we transferred to Thailand where I was 5. The people in the community where we served were very eager in preserving the shells and bones of animals," Blanchley said.

"What is more amazing is that the people there has a particular story to tell with every piece of bone they have in their possession," he said.

Aside from preserving dead specimens, the museum and its facility are engaged in conserving and rescuing marine animals in danger.

"We respond immediately to any report we receive from the local fisherfolk and authorities when there are beached or entangled dolphins or whales. We are also trained to apply first aid and rehabilitation to these lovely creatures and, later on, return them to the sea," Blanchley said.

Funding woes

He lamented that funds are not enough to cover the center's operational woes. The museum charges only P50 for an adult and P40 for a child as entrance fees.

"I am still buried in debt to my parents. We need this to be the best in the Philippines, that is why we are also hoping that different government agencies will also support our efforts," Blanchley said.

He said he had tried to work with government agencies in the retrieval and preservation of the remains of aquatic animals.

"We are begging the Department of Environment and Natural Resources to donate to us the confiscated and recovered animal remains, most especially the rare ones, instead of their usual procedure of burning or burying them," he said.

Blanchley also called on people to donate animal skeletons in their possession to the museum.

"However, I warn the public not to kill animals just to display it. These bones in my collection were not acquired through illegal means," he said.

Villagers with cell phones but no power get lanterns

By Ellie S. Aguirre
Inquirer City

DARK nights in one of the city's remotest villages ended early this month as lanterns—powered by solar energy—started to shine in houses there.

At least 26 years since electricity came to this city, its remotest parts have remained literally in the dark.

The people of Sitio Subwang in Barangay Bajumpaic had no idea what it was like to have electric bulbs at night, their only light coming from gas lamps.

It is a community so remote that the peak of Mount Apo is just a few kilometers away.

On Feb. 10, all 48 households there switched on their light bulbs, courtesy of Solar Energy Foundation.

The remoteness of the place did not deter Jaime Ayala, the Solar Energy Foundation chair, from personally delivering the lamps.

Ayala led 38 climbers from Kapatag Pinoy Foundation in Sitio Subwang and distributed the solar lanterns to 48 households. He was accompanied by Mayor Joseph Pelias, Vice Mayor Bernadito Hernandez, Kapatagan village chief Jasmin Morales, and other local officials.

Ayala said the foundation chose solar-powered lanterns because these are "much superior to conventional battery-operated flashlights."

According to Ayala, the solar lanterns could provide illumination for nine to 180 hours depending on use. The lanterns, he said, could also charge cell phones.

Village chief Morales said some residents of Sitio Subwang, despite the lack of electricity, own cell phones which they use to communicate with relatives living in other areas.

He said residents with several kilometers to the nearest village with electricity to charge their phone batteries. "That ends now, too. The lanterns can well do that for them," he said.

Morales said the most important purpose of the lanterns is to provide light for students studying at night in the resident's community. "Previously, they gather around the family's gas lamp to do that," he said.

Ayala said since 2003, Solar Energy Foundation has been distributing solar lanterns to the country's remotest areas.

He said so far, solar-powered lanterns have been distributed to communities living in 88 Apo, 39 Orolang-Dalaang, Mt. Canlaon, Mt. Pulag and Mt. Gatcing-Dulding.

Art Valdez, of Kapa ng Pinoy Foundation, said the group got to use its members' enthusiasm for trekking to help those living near the six tallest mountains in the country.

"The climbers are helping spread the foundation's mission of providing sustainable access to energy in the most remote nooks in the country," Ayala said.

SOLAR Energy Foundation chair Jaime Ayala explains how the solar lantern is used to officials and community leaders in one of the country's remotest areas, Sitio Subwang of Barangay Bajumpaic in Digos City.

Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

Gov't allots ₱5B for cash dole to Bicol's poor

By Ma' L. Arguelles
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LEGAZPI CITY—The government would spend some ₱5.1 billion in Bicol for a dole-out program for the poor.

Benito Tapiquenes, regional director of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), said 300,379 poor families, who qualified for the conditional cash transfer (CCT) program as of Jan. 25, would receive money from government.

She said covered by the program this year were poor families living in 2,223 barangays in the six provinces, 106 municipalities and seven cities of Bicol.

Qualified families are to receive up to ₱1,400 a month from government provided they send children to school and regular medical checkup.

Sinaile Maga, CCT project development officer, said beneficiaries were considered "extremely poor."

Compliance with the conditions of the cash dole is regularly monitored by DSWD, said Tapiquenes.

NEWSBRIEFS

LAGUNA

Police rescue 54 dogs, arrest driver

POLICE have rescued at least 54 dogs believed being transported for slaughter.

The dogs, all native to mela or aspang, were found separately penned in cages in an L-300 van and a tricycle.

Supt. Kirby Knell, police chief of San Pedro, Laguna, said two of the dogs were dead.

Knell said the tricycle driver, Christian Medina, has been arrested. His tricycle first yielded seven dogs. The rest of the dogs were found in the van near where Medina's tricycle was intercepted, said Knell.

Police quoted Medina as saying the dogs were being transported to Naguruhan, Laguna. The dogs have been turned over to an animal welfare center in Cajuan, Tarlac, according to Knell. **Marlar Dava**
Inquirer Southern Luzon

BATANGAS

3 dead as truck slams into pickup

TWO BIKE persons, including a man, were killed while two others were injured when the pickup truck they were riding in was hit by a cargo truck last Thursday on the Southern Tagalog Arterial Road (STAR) Tollway in Barangay San Andres, Malvar, Batangas.

Senior Insp. Gaudencio Aguilera, Malvar police chief, said the fatalities were Sister Fredelita Lopeta, 52, and two other employees from the Three Kings Parish Convent in Cajuan, Ibaan, Batangas.

Lopeta and unidentified employee, Jasmin Lang-Garcia, 26, were declared dead on arrival at the Mary Mediatrix Hospital in Lipa City.

Another passenger identified only as Andy, died on the spot, Aguilera said. **Jerome Bubios, *Inquirer Southern Luzon***

NAGA CITY

1-month daily brownouts seen in Naga

RESIDENTS of this city and some drowning electricity from the Camarines Sur II Electric Cooperative (Casureco II) would have to deal with hour-long daily brownouts in the next three months.

The brownouts have to be imposed because Casureco II's feeder station has been malfunctioning and needed repair, according to Engr. Manuel Rojo, Casureco II spokesperson.

Rojo said it would take at least three months to repair the 11-year-old feeder station. **Jose Alexander Jr., *Inquirer Southern Luzon***

DA sees more crop losses due to floods

THE DEPARTMENT of Agriculture (DA) in Bicol projected more crop losses in the coming days as floods continued to wreak havoc on the region's farms.

Floodwaters have started to flow from Albay to Camarines Sur, threatening to destroy more crops, according to Emily Bordado, DA regional executive director.

She said a total of 8,122 hectares of farms are now flooded. At least 3,218 hectares of the farms are in the southern towns of Ibaan and Bato in Camarines Sur which are near the province's border with Albay.

In Camarines Sur alone, Bordado said the amount of damage could reach ₱1.9 million. In Albay, she said at least ₱2 million in crops were destroyed. **Jose Alexander Jr., *Inquirer Southern Luzon***

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT

'Big brother' role for shipbuilder

A BEST PRACTICE program in safety and health measures is now being implemented by Korean shipbuilder Hanjin, its subcontractors and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) to ensure safety of workers in Hanjin's shipyard here.

In a memorandum of understanding signed on Friday by Labor Secretary Rosalinda Baldoz and Hanjin Heavy Industries and Construction Philippines Inc. (HHIC-Philippines) president Ahn Jin Kyu, the Korean shipbuilder said it was taking on the role of "big brother" to its subcontractors who employ thousands here.

The memorandum was signed in lieu with DOLE's program of promoting a "culture of compliance by the business sector with labor standards and of occupational health and safety standards, which is necessary in order to maintain high productivity and quality at the workplace," a joint statement by the department and Hanjin said.

In her speech, Baldoz underscored the importance of the memorandum as part of the government's continuing effort to promote and ensure compliance with existing labor laws, rules and regulations.

Robert Basilio, *Inquirer Central Luzon*

EVENT

Calapan keeps ISO 9001 certificate

CALAPAN CITY has maintained its International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 9001 certification for its development and quality service to the public.

Mayor Paulino Salvador Leachon said Calapan is extremely proud of having received another ISO certification.

"This is a major achievement and a compliance milestone," he said in a press statement.

Calapan is among four recipients of the prestigious ISO 9001 certification out of 122 local government units that vied for it.

Leachon also received the certification in Malacañang on Jan. 16 from President Aquino.

The three other certificate recipients are Dagupan City in Pangasinan; Tanauan City in Batangas and San Fernando City in La Union.

The certificate is a recognition of the quality of the city's public service which Lina Carpio, the city's planning development officer, said was due to the streamlining of various procedures in businesses and service delivery.

CALAPAN CITY Mayor Paulino Leachon receiving the ISO certification from President Aquino in Malacañang.

Sinkhole stirs village still nervous on quake

By Jhunnex Napallacan and Carmel Matus
Inquirer Visayas

DUMANJUG, Cebu—Residents of a village here expressed alarm over a sinkhole that formed after an explosion, reviving tension in a community that is still nervous following an intensity 6.9 earthquake recently.

The hole was first discovered by a farm caretaker in Barangay Gandawang on Friday. It was initially the size of a frying pan, said Father Bambot, 36, who was watching over a 3-hectare farm in the village.

Pendillon said he checked again and saw a hole with a diameter of about 50 meters. By noon, it grew to 12 meters, the farm caretaker said. The next day, the hole had grown to about 30 meters in diameter and it appeared to be fluffier increasing in size.

Residents, according to Pendillon, expressed alarm at the hole and speculated on how deep it was.

Jojo Quimson, the village chair, said some residents threw a coconut into the hole to check how deep it was judging from the sound of the coconut hitting bottom. They heard no sound.

Its depth could be estimated by a 14-foot wooden electric post that the hole swallowed, said Quimson.

"Pati ang lilo, this is the first time I encountered this kind of unusual event," said Quimson.

The area has been cordoned off while two policemen and two village watchmen tried to prevent people from getting near as the hole continued to expand.

Eddie Llanesis, spokesperson of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) in Central Visayas, said the occurrence was not unusual, saying sinkholes could also be found in karst towns and other parts of Cebu because of limestone formation.

"It is just part of the natural depression of surface topography," said Llanesis. He said the intensity 6.9 quake last July 6 caused ground tension cracks. Prolonged rains made the cracks bigger.

Llanesis said MGB would send geologists to the area on Monday to check.

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), sinkholes are common where the earth underneath is made of limestone, carbonate rock, salt beds or rocks that can be dissolved by ground water circulating through them.

In its website, USGS said typical cavities develop underground where the rock dissolves. If there is not enough support for the earth above the spaces, a sudden collapse of the land surface can occur, the USGS said.

RESIDENTS roll around the sinkhole that has raised alarm in communities still nervous about aftershocks that followed the intensity 6.9 quake in the area recently.

List of Bataan flora another legacy left by Co

CLARK FREDDIE—Senator Leonard Co documented the flora of the Bataan National Park a year before he was killed in Luzon, said local environmentalists have reproduced the catalogue for students to encourage them to help regrow the park.

Co's eight-page catalogue lists 160 plant species, Felicito Payumo, chair of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), said here on Friday.

A native of Bataan, Payumo led reforestation efforts on the 23,868-hectare park that stradles the foothills of Orion, Hermosa, Orani, Samal, Abucay, Bagac and Mount Natib in Bataan and Pampanga City. The park's center, Mount Natib, is the watershed of three towns, he said.

"It functions the endemic rain the flora of the park, Payumo said high school and college students have been invited to a Mar. 31-Apr. 1 event on Mt. Natib where they will hunt for the plant species. Participants who document the most species will be declared winners.

The event ends at the Bataan Technology Park in Morong, which is part of the Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), said here on Friday.

"They might even find new species in the process," he said.

Two members of the Aeta village of Gutad in Morong will join the event, the town, Senator Sabiga, helped to-day.

BOTANIST Leonard Co leaves behind a legacy for the environment and people seeking medicinal cure in plants.

ing the documentation.

On his first death anniversary in November last year, Co's friends and classmates at the University of the Philippines relaunched a new edition of his directory of indigenous herbs and medicinal plants.

The book, "Common Medicinal Plants of the Cordillera Region," lists 120 indigenous Cordillera plants and provides recipes for their use as medicinal remedies.

Co was working on a biodiversity project by the Energy Development Corp. in Leyte when he and two companions were shot dead allegedly during a communist rebel clash with government soldiers.

The military said Co was caught in a crossfire. His family and friends believed soldiers fired on Co and his companions, mistaking them to be New People's Army rebels. **Tarcelo Oliveros, Inquirer Central Luzon**

Gambling lords defy Digos City crackdown

DIGOS CITY—Illegal gambling operators are defying a city council resolution shutting down betting stations here known as frontons.

The resolution, which becomes law after Mayor Joseph Peñas signed it last week, was part of the city government's crackdown on Lara Yuzo, a commissioner gone bored on daily basis drama and which has spanned the opening of betting stations that prompts have call to stores.

In the resolution, the city council ordered the city police to dismantle or demolish Lara Yuzo betting outlets, amid criticism that gambling lords have become bolder in defying existing antigambling laws.

Contrary to past practices, which involved guerrilla-type operations, Lara Yuzo financiers have seen the years become more daring by putting up betting stations even near police outposts.

Lara Yuzo operations have won over betting bets.

The member of frontons, said Councilor Imelda Aranjuez Jr., the resolution author, has grown. "They have insulted me," he said.

A check by Inquirer showed that two weeks after the resolution was passed, frontons are still open and have disguised themselves as cell phone refreshing stations. Bets are taken in these outlets.

"If this trend continues, Digos City may be known as a haven for illegal gamblers, a member that would negatively affect our viability to become a family-friendly, business and investment friendly city," Aranjuez said.

Reached for comment, Peñas said he has ordered city police director Supt. Solomon de Castilla "to implement the strong mechanism of the law."

"It is high time now to stop all these illegal gambling operations and I have the political will," said the mayor.

De Castilla said police were preparing to padlock or dismantle all frontons in the city.

He also said even before the passage of the resolution, police had been at war with illegal numbers games.

He said police, however, needed council approval to demolish the frontons.

Last year, the provincial police considered a crackdown on the betting stations and closed many of them.

Those running the stations have been charged but no gambling operators has been found convicted.

The betting stations also reopened as soon as Senate Sgt. Vladimir Ganzo Kabalagan was relieved as bureau-in-charge police director last year. Reports from Orlando Rimay and Bella Aguirre, Inquirer Mindanao

ELIZ FOMBAY (center right) now a life welfare of OFWs in Syria —Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario to security PH declaimed from the IDF with condemning Syria for violences against civilians

GLOBAL Pinoy

Gilda Monica Feria

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

PH doctors without borders

By Nahlong Mazadi
Correspondent

DR. NATASHA REYES of Medecins Sans Frontieres poses with her patients in a clinic in Pibor, South Sudan.

As an emergency humanitarian worker, Dr. Tasha Reyes rushes to some of the poorest and most dangerous places in the world

SARA'S last doctor's white coat, Dr. Natasha Reyes of Bacolod City stands up to her conviction of providing lifesaving care to the world's most neglected people.

"One thing I gave up in the way of image of my profession—that the idea of being a doctor is wearing a white, clean coat; exposure to calling you 'doc' you have your own clinic, a secretary and yes, play golf," says 35-year-old Natasha, a doctor with the international medical humanitarian organization Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF).

Also known as Doctors Without Borders, MSF is present in more than 70 countries, mostly those affected by armed conflict, epidemics or natural disasters.

Natasha, called Tasha by friends, is a psychology graduate of University of the Philippines (UP), and completed her medical studies in the University of Sto. Tomas (UST) in 2008. She specialized in emergency medicine, which she describes as "a little bit of everything—a lot of surgery, a lot of medicine, a bit of internal medicine."

She says she initially joined MSF in 2007 out of curiosity that it has turned out to be a career and a fervent passion. So far, she has completed missions in Kenya, Sierra Leone, South Sudan and Colombia. She has trained traditional birth attendants in some of the world's most dangerous places....Libya, Afghanistan, Pakistan. She was back in the Philippines in 2009 to lend a hand in the aftermath of devastating Tropical Storm "Ondoy" and the list goes on.

"I feel instant gratification when I see patients' injuries in a short duration of time. I like seeing immediate results," she says.

Beside emergency nature of the work, she adds: "I like the action. I like the risk. I also like to think that wherever I am sent, I can do something for the patient."

The road less traveled

Even as a little girl, Tasha dreamed of becoming a doctor. She was eight when her family moved to Metro Manila, which allowed her a choice of some of the country's best medical schools and hospitals. After graduation from UP and UST, she completed her first-year training at Makati Medical Center in 2006.

She was at a crossroad when she received word that her application to work as a doctor in Australia had been approved. This was about the same time she received a call from MSF.

"Everyone I know was applying their applications to work in Australia or other countries. So, I had applied too. However, I also really wanted to work with MSF. I knew about the organization a long time ago. In my early teens, I read about its medical humanitarian activities in Bosnia. I was also aware that they were in Guinea in the late '90s, and also present in Albania. Their pitiless style of neutrality, impartiality and independence really appealed to me. It was always at the back of my mind that someday I would work with MSF in the Philippines."

"When I was ready to go overseas, they had already left the country and I handed my application to MSF in Kolkata. He encouraged me to try working with MSF outside the Philippines."

Weighing her options, Tasha chose the road less traveled.

A lifelong commitment

"Many people I know think that (emergency humanitarian work) is something (individuals) do only in their 20s then they would actually settle down, marry, start a family and live a very comfortable life. Sometimes when I go home, people would ask me if I am staying home for good as if am I going to get a 'real job.'"

But she adds that her family and close friends are very supportive of her decisions.

When your election violence erupted in Kenya in 2008, Tasha was there working in a primary health care clinic for displaced residents.

"As a medical doctor, I really saw what MSF can do to help people who are in great need to survive. We were treating patients, providing basic and lifesaving kits for tens of thousands of people affected by the violence. Being new in MSF, I realized that we can make a big difference because we are part of an organization that has the material expertise based on its years of experience in responding to bigger-scale humanitarian emergencies."

Aviation-unfit and sporting her patients sunshine given their limited access to facilities being hurt free on the ground and sentences her to the reality of what each step of her career is worth.

In the very remote town of Pibor, South Sudan, she dealt with a woman who delivered a premature baby girl. The baby was 28 weeks and only weighed 900 grams. The baby was so small, Tasha could carry the baby with one hand.

"I was with a very experienced Kenyan midwife. But we had no incubator, and there was no neonatal intensive care unit in the whole of South Sudan. We didn't have facilities to help her survive. But the baby was running out and I had to manage regardless of her small chances of survival.

"We were so surprised to hear the baby give her first cry—she was fighting to live. We wrapped her in a survival blanket and put her under heat lamps. We kept her warm ... After 48 hours, the baby started to suck. It was a team effort ... Later, we named her Leila after the daughter of the Iranian ruling fighter Muhammad Ali."

The life I want

"This is the life that I want. My mom always fears for my safety but she always tells me to pray to God to place me where He wants me to be. So even when I am in Colombia's rebel-held jungles or stabilizing a war-wounded patient in Afghanistan, I feel safe because I am meant to be there and to help those who don't have access to health care."

MSF is an international medical humanitarian aid organization founded by doctors and journalists in 1971. MSF won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1999. To learn more about MSF activities and how to send such them as a medical or nonmedical practitioner, visit www.msf.org.hk.

Husbands also want their OFW wives repatriated

By Susan K.

SOME wives want their philandering husbands repatriated. There are also many instances when the husbands of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) come to our counters to seek assistance in having their wives to come home.

One time, there were 12 husbands who came to Sadye Inquirer to complain about their wives overseas.

They brought pictures of their wives with other men ("ka-foreign affairs," such lovers are jokingly called) which they discovered on the popular social networking site Facebook.

Body (not his real name) showed us a picture he found on the account of his wife he hugging a younger man. He also said that when he calls his OFW wife in Dubai, a guy often answers her mobile phone.

According to his wife, the guy is only her coworker. Body has doubts because he usually makes his call at midnight.

Body wants to request that his wife to be sent back to the Philippines as soon as possible.

Liberata has a different story. His wife went to Singapore as a household service worker. He said his land told him that her work conditions there were not good. So he came to Sadye Inquirer begging Bantay OCW to help repatriate his wife (www.dfa.gov.ph/bantayocw). Almost every day he asks for updates via Facebook.

Liberata is very worried since his wife's work problems. She even asked for his wife's passport so she can enrolled the things he liked most about his wife.

There is a happy ending to Liberata's story. After Bantay OCW coordinated with the Philippine Embassy in Singapore, our guy is only her coworker. Body was double because he usually makes his call at midnight.

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Pacquiao leads Elorde awardees

FIVE Filipino fighters will be honored as most outstanding boxers of the year in the 12th Gabriel "Flash" Elorde Boxing Awards on March 25 at the Bulan Basketball Gymnasium.

IBO welterweight champion Manny Pacquiao, WBC/IBO lightweight champion Nonito Donaire, IBO flyweight king Brian Viloria and IBO/super bantamweight queen Ana Julaton will all be feted for their feats in 2011.

Sunday SPORTS

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Tenorio triple lifts Aces past Gin Kings

Llamados eye 3rd victory

By Jasmine W. Payo

ONE big shot came one after another, but Alaska's LA Tenorio had the final say.

Tenorio knotted in the game-winning triple with 2.1 seconds left in the Aces' clipped second frame for Gimebra, 76-74, in the Phoenix PBA Cup four last night at the Quezon Convention Center in Lucena City.

In a thrilling final minute, Tenorio also completed a rare four-point play that put the Aces back on top, 73-72, with 38.2 ticks left after Gimebra star Mark Caguioa nailed a long jumper.

Tenorio finished 23 points, including 4-3-of-6 clips from three-point range, aside from dishing out five assists.

Cyrus Baguio impressed for the Aces, who climbed to second with a 3-1 record.

Rudy Hummada tanked seven of his 12 points inside the last three minutes, the last on a jumper with six seconds left that gave the Hotshots their final lead at 74-73.

The Kings dropped to 1-3.

Meanwhile, B-Meg Derby Ace goes for a third straight win against Petron Blaze even as Marcus Douthit finally gets going today at the Ynares Center in Antipolo City.

With two call his ring wins, the Llamados square another rough outing at 4:30 p.m. against the powerhouse Boosters, who have two straight losses to an unbeaten/unbeaten duday start.

The 6-foot-10 fourth, a second-round reserve who led Stanley Gilbert in fourth-place finish in the Aces last year, will try to earn things around for Air21.

With a report from Jane Bustamante

The scores:

ALASKA 76—Baguio 19, Nonoy 13, Pondo 7, Simond 5, Yeo 5, Hugnatan 4, Dogu 2, Custodio 0, Exciel 0, Salamat 0.

GINEBRA 74—Caguioa 18, Cortez 13, Hernandez 12, Wallace 9, Mercado 7, Mallari 6, Cardona 5, Lutugan 3, Mariano 0, Wilson 0.

Quarters: 19-17, 37-41, 58-58, 76-74

DENZEL Bowles (right) will spur hard B-Meg's attack. KC CAYABYAB

Unceremonious Baylon exit

IN HUDDLE

Beth Cuevas

LAST: I saw a homage of the pantyhose ads in Buenos Aires, Argentina. I had no idea how tantalizing, sexless and private that the sexual situation was when losing foot-anchored Filipino boxer Ashanti Caramento and other officials in the ring.

Among other injuries, the ace left Caramento's concussion from Gilberto with broken ribs and referee Eddie Claudio with bruised lips. The slot was ignited by Claudio's stoppage of the fight at the 10th round and declaring Caramento the winner of the IBF junior flyweight championship.

The fighter from Ormoc, Leyte abstained by thought he would not get out of the Club Unico Casino alive.

"I thought it was my end. I felt like I was dying in that cramped space under the ring," Caramento said in national television upon his return to his hometown.

Caramento and his team had left Buenos Aires in a huff following the harrowing experience, leaving behind his hard-earned championship belt which could not be awarded because of the overnight rule.

Instead, Jacquiers Lenderoleth, welterweight international court boxing promoter and patron of Caramento's manager Sammy Cortes, and will deliver the belt to the champion here on March 7.

* * *

An anonymous text message was sent to me yesterday morning.

The message, which was very long it had to be sent in four installments, recounted sad and confidential details about Baylon's exit, specifically about his involvement in the PBA.

The information sounded entirely accurate, although I have yet to double check it independently for the content.

Like PBA czar-chair Jun Bernardo, the commissioner, who I absolutely had no communication with since the start of the season until talks of Cone's PBA franchise broke out.

The months in the suspension Gilas had cost the Philippines' hosting bid by Commissioner and CEO Willman Ildefonso to resign from his post in the multinational company by which, ironically, is observing its centennial year in the Philippines this year.

This post-commissioner message that JR, who is next in line as PBA chair, will no longer be Cone's representative to the PBA Board of Governors.

* * *

"Until meeting Mr. Bell, Mike was Coca-Cola for us (meaning Bell Ildefo had various PBA commissioner Chito Salud, meaning him that JR is no longer Cone's representative on the PBA board effective immediately," the spokesperson message read.

"JR's last day in Cola is on Feb. 29. What you wrote in your last column is true. P200 million was paid to Ildefo by the Coke franchise first week of January. I think what should be questioned is Cone's suspension/punishment."

As the point, I realized that I still have to review some of the subjects I took in business administration to better comprehend some of the misunderstandings/misdirection.

To continue: "Coke is doing insider trading (Is this the sophisticated phrase used to describe the Martin Lander-Sonny Barlan trade?)

"We're without governance issue, Ildefo is an indifferent. To think they're saying, '100 years of happiness in the Philippines' bitter, what a way to celebrate their centennial ... They abandoned the PBA, they fired the league's vice chair."

According to the texter, COKE's issue of timing was most untimed. "They could have planned their exit better, with a semblance of graciousness. Imagine after their centennial campaign in the Philippines. Better yet, after JR's endorsement in the PBA. What's another year? My heart really bleeds for him."

The PBA board meets tomorrow in an effort to consider the Cone issue.

* * *

Our congratulations to the De La Salle University Lady Archers who recently clinched the Unilever Cup title at the Philsports Ortigas Basketball League (PCBL) over Ipoman, 30-21. The team is mentored by Ramon Gimenez.

Ateneo '5-peat' bid last for PBA-bound Black

By Jasmine W. Payo

ATENEO mentor-coach yesterday that Norman Black will be coaching the Blue Eagles for the last time this season to pave the way for the coach's champion mentor's return to the PBA as Talk 'N' Text head coach.

"[Black] has indicated his desire to return to the PBA where he hopes to replicate his successful options," Ateneo president Fr. Jose Ramon Villaza, SJ said in a statement released to the media yesterday afternoon.

"Having been in the PBA before, he is in a very coaching/full circle with this move."

The Ateneo statement confirms an exclusive report by the Inquirer in October last year that a coaching change would be set off among the teams bankrolled by business tycoon Manny V. Pangilinan.

Talk 'N' Text is expected to make an official announcement soon regarding the coaching situation.

The undefeated Chot Reyes, whom Black is expected to replace, is the leading candidate to coach of the Smart-Gilas national team.

But Black, who steered the Blue Eagles to four straight UAAP basketball crowns, will still serve as the school's coaching consultant until the 2014 season.

Ateneo already formed a search committee for a new coach with Edward Chua serving as chair and university athletics director Becky Bilasano as adviser.

"I have tasked the search committee to ensure that the search process be thorough, impartial, and complete," said Villaza. "The committee will submit a shortlist of three candidates to me, out of which I will make the final choice."

Other members of the search committee are Ricky Bagsic, Fr. Nemesio Jose SJ, Jack Huang, Joey Campos and Debbie Tan as secretary.

"We will not let our guard down and we will even work harder for that historic five-peat," said Villaza.

Black, already a champion NBA executive with a grand slam under his belt for San Miguel when he joined Ateneo in 2003, holds a remarkable 95-25 win-loss record with the Blue Eagles.

Patriots, Beermen triumph

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE ABRAHAM Philippine Brewers and San Miguel Beermen both survived a slow start to keep the top two spots with separate road game wins last night in the Asean Basketball League.

With Anthony Johnson leading a second-half drive, the Patriots battled back from a double-digit deficit to down defending champion Thailand Hummers, 81-72, at the Thai Japanese Association Gym in Bangkok.

The Beermen smoked to their fifth straight triumph in step on top with a 6-1 record.

In Jakarta, San Miguel rode a sterling fourth quarter as the Beermen crushed the Indonesia Warriors, 77-61, to direct solo second 11-2) at the Mahaka Square.

Doug Thomas banged in a game-high 23 points for the Beermen, who benched a 15-5 breakaway in the final period that earned a 46-37 lead to 71-57.

The Beermen pulled away for good at the start of the final quarter by drilling three straight triples, two coming from Allen Mangahas.

Johnson finished a rebound slip of a double-double with 21 points and nine boards for the Patriots.

Nikkie Miller had 14 markers, while Al Vergara contributed his scoring play with 12 points and a game-high eight assists.

Eagles, Lions join PSA honorees

TWO SWEETS champions and four other achievers in three sporting events join the Bradbeard Asian Games gold medalists set to receive special citations in the Philippine Sportswriters Association Awards Night on March 2.

The women Blue Eagles, who captured a record fourth straight UAAP crown, and back-to-back NCAA titlist San Beda Red Lions will be feted in the gathering of 2011's top sports personalities at the Manila Hotel.

Triathlon veterans Leo Collner Lampe, Gretchenmary Jolo-Catalan Sudeera and Ish Aaron Pace Gomez, gold medalists Josephine Medina and Rosie Eusebio will also get citations in the gala night where boxing champion Nonito Donaire Jr. and world no. 1 billiards player Dennis Orcollo will receive the Athletes of the Year honors.

Vice President Jejomar Binay will serve as guest speaker in the annual rite presented by Smart.

Lampe clinched the gold in the solo, Aquatic/bike/swim of the Mekong River Triathlon Sports Festival in Thailand.

Sudeera also drove where he emerged as the country's latest Grandmaster after the UT Dallas Spring Invitational GM norm-earner in North Dallas, Texas.

Global XI finally ropes in Stallion

By Cassidy R. Tupas

GLOBAL downed Stallion, 3-0-0, Saturday night, dealing the league leading squad its first loss of the United Football League season at the University of Makati field.

Ivo El-HADDAD scored the winner in the 67th minute as Global picked up its tally to 12 points to forge a tie for second with Loyola Meralco and Kaya, which eliminated Pinoy-gol, 3-1-0, earlier.

Stallion stayed on top with 13 points despite its first defeat.

Kaya struck the three second half goals to answer its fourth win against a loss since four games ago against Loyola.

Pinangkol responded to eighth goal, with two points to show.

Global host four more games over two days, but manager Ian Palmer believes his side is slowly finding its feet.

"It's really competitive at the top that's why this is a morale-boosting win," said Palmer.

In a nine-match day now five players got booked and left Mongin Bandamon bloodied because of a head clash with Bonn Yeo. Gallego prevailed, dampening Stallion's passing game.

Kaya's bosses striker Eric Dagrob opened the scoring in the 49th minute, pounding on a lose from Pinangkol keeper Abdullah Golloh, who fumbled the Airbus Swedish's cross.

Prince Ibeji doubled the lead from the penalty spot 20 minutes later. Nuno Rodrigo avoided the woes with a fine individual effort in the 89th minute for his first goal in league play.

MIAMI star LeBron James soars for a dunk against his former team. AP PHOTO

'Linsanity' stung; Heat whip Cavs

NEW YORK—Jeremy Lin coughed up nine turnovers in his first clutch as a New York Knicks starter with the lowly New Orleans Hornets claiming a surprise 89-85 victory at a sold-out Madison Square Garden on Friday.

Lin's amazing story has gripped America and spread throughout Asia as the Taiwanese-American guard, rejected by a string of NBA teams, became the unlikely driving force behind the Knicks' seven consecutive wins.

However, that run came to an end on Friday as the 23-year-old Harvard graduate teamed to a season high turnover tally.

"Nine turnovers is obviously never gonna get it done from your primary ball-handler," Lin, who scored a joint team-high 26 points, told reporters.

"It's never in terms of taking care of the ball and the game in general. If everyone's going to awake me for those last seven games, then I definitely deserve this one. So that's fine by me."

In Cleveland, the Miami Heat, led by LeBron James, notched the Cavaliers, 111-87, on Friday to record their fifth consecutive road win in front of an unforgiving crowd.

James scored 16 of his game-high 28 points in the third quarter as the Heat extended their lead to cap many as 34 points before he sat out the fourth.

James was booed loudly again by the Cleveland fans who have not forgiven him for leaving the team in 2010.

"It's always special coming back here," James told reporters. "I know those fans, they know me. They know how competitive I am. I just try and lead my team to victory every night. It's definitely special every time I come back here."

The Southeast Division leading Heat (29-7) carried the fans 11 points of the game and never let up in the dominant performance by the Cavaliers.

"It was very simple. It looked like we were scared to death," Cavaliers coach Byron Scott told reporters. "They came out with great energy and great effort and we didn't match it unfortunately."

SCORES HEAD TO: Miami 111, Milwaukee 87; Chicago 92, Philadelphia 75; Charlotte 102, Toronto 91; Atlanta 93, Cleveland 87; Detroit 104, Minnesota 100; Memphis 104, Golden State 97; Houston 103, Sacramento 95; Utah 92, Denver 102; Milwaukee 113, Houston 98; Utah 104, Washington 103; LA Lakers 111, Phoenix 98

Guess who's becoming a global icon?

LONDON—The hoopla surrounding "Linsanity" is covering up in Europe.

The incredible story of Jeremy Lin, the Harvard-economics graduate who has become an overnight sensation for the New York Knicks, has become so big that it is getting space in London newspapers that are generally used on basketball coverage and leaves on football—the post-Asian-in-cricket.

"The 'miracle' of Lin takes America by storm," the Daily Telegraph headlined in Thursday's sports section. In the Independent, the paper decided to play the Lin story in its news section, putting the "Linsanity!" headline in bold letters on its Monday page.

Elsewhere in the world everybody's getting swept up by "Linsanity."

In China, Taiwan, and the Philippines—Asia's three biggest basketball countries—Lin has triggered a spike in basketball products.

In the Philippines, Pedro Sports Center vice president Jayson Salazar surfaces the developments, saying "Linsanity" benefits "the sanidad as a new Asian born emerges in the post Yao Ming era in the NBA.

"Our sales of Spalding and NBA products are already reacting positively to the Jeremy Lin magic and we are optimistic that we are merely scratching the surface of his potential impact," said Salazar.

Pedro distributes Spalding products to the Philippines. With a report from AP

LIN

Abaño tops PGT qualifier

AMATEUR Kenny Marlo out-played Del Monte teammate Clyde Montilla and Jomar Pepito and carried a one-over 73 to take the Philippine Golf Tour Qualifying tournament at the Philippine Golf Club in Laguna last Friday.

Three up on Montilla at the start of the final round, Marlo knocked down three birdies against zero bogeys in the first nine holes that watched his rivals flounder with one par saving to clinch the victory in the event that staked 20 spots for the next PGT Q-School exam.

Marlo posted an even 216, beating Pepito, Montilla and veteran campaigner Danny delos Santos by eight shots. Delos Santos rounded out 72 while Pepito and Montilla wound up with 77 and 78, respectively, for 224).

Elmer Villanueva, the other player who made it to the final stage of the Q-School conducted by the Philippine Golf Tournaments Inc., aired to an 80 and ended up with a 226.

Drilon opens Scuaa Games

KOLO CITY—Sen. Franklin Drilon helps open the 2012 State Colleges Universities athletic Association (Scuaa) today when he addresses participants as the event's keynote speaker at the Iloilo Sports Complex.

Drilon will be joined by Iloilo City Mayor Jed Patrick Mabilog, Iloilo Governor Arthur Defensor Jr., and Iloilo City Rep. Jerry Trenas during the opening ceremony.

A parade of delegations and participants will start at 1 p.m.

More than 3,000 student-athletes and officials will take part in the competitions hosted this year by the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges Region VI.

The opening and closing programs and most of the games will be held at the Iloilo Sports Complex.

Luisita still up by 12 over Canlubang

Manila Golf leads Founders tilt

By Mayang R. Castello

BATAC—Luisita lost some ground at Batac Palm Suites here yesterday but retained a solid championship bet with a 12-point cushion over home-rival Canlubang going into the final round of Session play in the PAL Interclub rubber.

"We're happy where we are," said Luisita skipper Iggy Clarenilla, who sat out the third round and watched his teammates post a 143 led by Ponsky Gamon's five-over par 77 worth 49 points in a 4-STV total.

The Tarlac Country-rolled Interclub is a big favorite to win it all after shooting a 138 despite a brilliant 32 putts coming from Rammonte Bardak.

Philippine Sports Commission chair Richie Garcia amassed 46 points and Lito Magsaysay wondered 36 for Luisita even as Sibling Marcella, who had 31 points in the first round, failed to count with a 65.

Mat Hechanova accounted for 50 points and either one of the 61 of Rene Uriarte and playing skipper Luigi Polo counted as the third-score toward the 143.

Final-day action is set at sugar Ago Golf, where the Lusitana gained 12 points over the defending champion Sugar Interac in Thursday's opening round.

"If we score shy to get 12 points from them in Ago (in the first round), they can also do that to us with the runs that they have," Clarenilla said.

A tight battle is also up in the Founders class with Manila Golf holding a 10-point lead over Fabiera after shooting 1-37 also at Ago. Their final round is set at Rancho Palos Verdes.

Ely Espiritu led Manila Golf with 40 while Wandeng Claro, a lawyer, shooting 42. Mike Hipolito and Hamed Ibi.

MANOTOC: 33 points

La Salle rules FCBL hoops

UA MELO completed his fairy-tale run by downing Lyceum, 59-43, to rule the FCBL Dalton Cup in overtly at the Philippine Basketball Association Quezon City.

Aldin Ayenthe Alonzo and Dan-iah Nicolas at the fitting end, the Lady Archers notched a perfect record to be a clear and exciting finale to cross a road.

Like in their stunning 79-67 win over Adamson in the semis, Alonzo energized her teammates with clutch baskets in the first half before Viterbo and Alyanna Ong joined the fray in the third quarter to help the Lady Archers outscore the Lady Pirates, 59-9, for a 45-00 final.

Alonzo had 19 points and 15 rebounds to win not only the Dalton Underwear Player of the Game award but also the coveted MVP award in the event also backed by Smart, Abang Isaad, Home Depot and PowerSmart.

Vis-Min breeders join NFGB derby

VISAYAS and Mindanao breeders will complete the cast of the NFGB Super Gig Event 6-Cock Derby (The President's Cup) on 16th, 22 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum.

All 32 member associations of National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) will have one-entry each.

At Gantis, the 2005 National Bahlokan champ, bank the Visayas contingent. Leading the breeders from Mindanao are Paul Dominguez , Ben Tio, Gov. Dodo Piñgoy and Cato Daniels.

For details, call 09209655207 and 7957001 or visit nationalgybreeders.com for updates.

KENYAN Philip Boosh (center), Reggie Lumawag and Amor Sister display their prizes at the podium with Discovery Channel Head regional exec Jonathan Reiss, Reggie Dizon of PVNT and Gail Cooper of Bandana.

Kenyans rule 'vertical' race

KENYANS rolled some in the Discovery Channel Vertical 1.08 Run recently at the Stamford Executive Residences in Bonifacio Hill, Taguig City.

Philip Boosh topped the men's division with a time of 10 minutes and three seconds, beating closest pursuer Reggie Lumawag by five minutes.

Irene Kipchumba clocked 49.52 in the women's side to edge second-placer Sara Barrera (11:19).

Boosh and Kipchumba—two of several Kenyans regularly competing in local races—predicted. P1.5,000 each, months after the duo won the Macau Triathlon and a further regional race.

But it's the top Filipino finisher, Lumawag will represent the country in the Invitational Vertical Marathon in Singapore this year.

Ayen Shaw (40:32) rounded up the podium finishers in the men's race, while Lizza Guerra (52:07) ranked third in the women's division.

Another Kenyan topped the 5K race in Willy Tanui (completed in 16:02).

Coach E summer clinics up

COACH E's Summer Elite dynamic basketball camp will start April 16 in various locations.

The summer clinics will have classes in Xavier School, San Beda College in Alabang, Ateneo de Manila in Katipunan, The Chess in Makati and Mandaluyong, Mandaluyong, Mandaluyong.

The Monday, Wednesday and Friday classes will begin at Xavier School-Atrium 1, April 11 to 25, and Module 2, May 30-Oct. and Club Iloilo College in Mandaluyong, Module 1, April 11 to 25, and Module 2, May 30-Oct.

For details and other schedules or other venues, call 09175572 and 0917 1180 or mobile no. 0998 8842662. You can also e-mail info@coach-e.com.

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'Rich kids' gang up on traffic aide who spoiled drag race

By Nathaniel B. Molcan

ABOUT 30 "drag racers" ganged up on a traffic enforcer who tried to break up their dangerous, often alcohol-fueled sport in Pasay City on the wee hours of Saturday, according to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA).

The incident prompted MMDA Chair Francis Tolentino to warn of a tougher crackdown and revive an earlier, controversial proposal to arm the agency's traffic aides.

Tolentino yesterday said one of his men, Raul Reviriego, suffered head wounds and bruises after taking a beating from the racers and their peers, whom the official described to be young males apparently belonging to "rich families."

The standing work (since at around 2 a.m. on Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, a favorite theater of drag racers since it usually has little or zero vehicular traffic in the early morning hours. The MMDA imposes a 60-kph limit on the highway.

"Initial investigation showed that the racers who insulted our enforcer were from rich families. They were mad that they were being asked to stop the race," Tolentino told the Inquirer yesterday.

"It so happened that the was a large group, about 30 of them, who eventually mauled the enforcer. Apparently drunk, they immediately fled after the incident but we have witnesses who saw what happened and can identify those involved," he added.

"We will return there to hold more [traffic] and to the coming weeks. So if they decide to return there, too, they better be prepared," he said. "We will never stop until we have fully eradicated drag racing on Macapagal."

Other MMDA enforcers patrolling the area rushed Reviriego to San Juan de Dios Hospital. He was discharged later yesterday.

The MMDA said it would review footage from security cameras along the highway to determine the plate numbers of the vehicles involved in the race which fleetness tried to stop.

"We want at least one traffic officials in every game. In the meantime, we will strengthen our patrols by requiring our enforcers to make their rounds in tandems," Tolentino said.

The MMDA chair said he will also ask the Pasay City government to ban the sale of alcoholic drinks at the gasoline stations along the highway.

"We were told that, before the races, the drivers and other participants usually have a drink first at the gasoline stations," he said.

Tolentino also said his agency had also received word that the races also attract some rambling businessmen who go the area to place bets.

'SEÑOR' VISITS CALOOCAN

The iconic Black Nazarene of Quiapo makes its way through street buntings—and a relatively thinner crowd—on Saturday as the image is brought out of its home in Manila to the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Camarin, Caloocan City, for a three-day visit. more news

How do you solve problem like 'riding-in-tandem'?

By Kristine Felisse Mangaoang

PUT THE SUSPENSION game back up.

The chief of the Manikina City police suggested this as a deterrent against so-called "riding in tandem" criminals in the city, 18 years after an ordinance ordered the removal of substandard gates to ease the flow of traffic.

"I think this will greatly help. Subdivision proponents by these elements to subdivisions can be curbed, for example," Senior Supt. Gabriel Lopez said in an interview recently.

Lopez noted that shootings or robberies committed by tandem riding in motorbikes—who could dart in and out of the crime scene in seconds and weave through heavy traffic—occur practically every week in Manikina.

Restoring the gates in middle-class enclaves could at least make the world smaller, if not serve as traps, for these swift assailants, according to the officer.

But Lopez recalled that City Ordinance No. 198, a traffic management measure passed in 1994, had since caused the removal of subdivision gates in the city.

The ordinance was authored by Councilor Joseph Ramiro, according to the city's public affairs office. It was passed during the administration of Mayor Bayani Fernando.

Lopez said there was currently a pending resolution in the city council calling for a review of the ordinance.

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2003 complaint still hounding Royette Padilla

By Julie M. Aurelio

A BROTHER of actress Ace Robin Padilla is facing charges for allegedly threatening to shoot a man and hit a grenade in his house in February 2003 in Quezon City.

Nearly a decade after the incident, Assistant City Prosecutor Rafael Villaceles found probable cause to file a case of grave threats against Roy "Royette" Cambo Padilla, a onetime actor with an address on Maple Street, Pera Barrientos.

Padilla is a member of the famous clan whose members include show biz personalities like brother Robin and the transsexual Jill Cambo-Padilla (formerly Rustom Padilla).

So mired in controversy, Royette made headlines in the 1990s when he claimed being a "brigadier general" in a group called 10-World United Nations Philippine Military Government International Police Commission.

A two-page indictment concerning the 2003 complaint was received on Feb. 13 by the Office of the Clerk of Court of the Quezon City Metropolitan Trial Court.

It stemmed from allegations that Padilla had threatened to harm Johnny Sobrevilla on Feb. 11, 2003, when the former went to Sobrevilla's house in Barangay San Antonio to unwind 1 a.m. to see his daughter's fiancee.

Villaceles said Padilla's alleged statement that he would hit a grenade and shoot Sobrevilla unreasonably gave threats.

"Said threats amounted to a crime of arson and murder, and the threats were not subject to a condition," the prosecutor said in a resolution dated Dec. 1, 2011. "Said is not necessary unless required by the court."

Padilla was actually the first to file a complaint against Sobrevilla for illegal discharge of firearms and serial defamation. He claimed hearing Sobrevilla cursing him and firing a gun as he was pressing the doorbell of the house, prompting him to report the matter to the police and the media.

Villaceles dismissed the complaint against Sobrevilla for insufficiency of evidence.

Sex, lies and 'video' land man in jail

PANIC'S OVER, BUT NOT THE WEEPING
Residents can be overcome by emotion as they react to a fire that broke out in a slum area in Manila's San Andres district on Saturday. The inset (right) shows killed a 6-month-old baby boy. (See story below.)

By Julie M. Aurelio

HE PREFERRED Mondays and Thursdays...plus payday money.

A 23-year-old man in Caloocan City landed in jail for allegedly extorting P1,000 and sexual favors from a 18 year-old female student and facebook "friend" after the two had a one night tryst.

Police said that after that first encounter, Mark Anthony Panaro threatened to spread on the Internet a purported cell phone video of their sexual act if she would not give in to his demands. More sex on Mondays and Thursdays, plus some cash.

The jobless suspect was arrested in an entrapment operation at a Quezon City mall on Friday afternoon after the woman—reportedly an engineering student from the University of the Philippines—sought help from the police.

PO2 Andrew Braga, the case investigator, yesterday said Panaro had another pending criminal proceedings at the prosecutors' office for robbery-extortion.

Police confiscated a cell phone from Panaro, but it did not contain any sex video. He maintained that, contrary to what he told the student, he never really made such a recording.

The suspect was arrested at 2:30 p.m. Friday in front of SM North Edsa mall by members of the Kamuning police subnarcotics after he received marked money from his victim.

Panaro and the woman got to know each other through the social networking site Facebook in January.

They later agreed to have an "eyeball"—cyber-lingo for a face-to-face meeting—on Feb. 1, the day they had sex. It was their first and last meeting before Panaro was arrested on Friday.

Man found dead at family's Manila North mausoleum

By Jeannette I. Andrade

WHAT'S murder or a suicide?

A 32-year-old man was found dead—his abdomen slashed and with a nine-inch jungle knife placed next to his body—early yesterday morning inside the family mausoleum at Manila North Cemetery.

The body of Rolando Capoz of Dapang-Dayang Street, Maharlika Subdivision, Bating Bikol, was discovered by a group of children living in the cemetery, whom the police-retirees-turn-reporedly often outsell prizes to his death.

SPO3 Virgo Villareal of the Manila Police District (MPD) homicide section said that based on witnesses' accounts, Capoz spent Friday night inside the mausoleum, which kept the remains of his mother Henrieta, an aunt and a sibling.

"People in the cemetery usually saw him staying and drinking at his family's tomb-stream whenever he had problems at home," Villareal said.

Investigators were still trying to establish whether Capoz committed suicide or was killed.

Villareal noted that there were no immediate signs of foul play, like blood marks on the walls or "defense wounds" on Capoz's arms.

"But it is still possible that he was attacked while he was sleeping," the investigator said.

Also recovered from the mausoleum were Capoz's cellphone and pieces of clothes which he apparently used as sleeping mats. The jungle knife found next to the body had the letters "SK" carved on it.

Gambler 'cheats' e-bingo machine but not manager

By Jeannette I. Andrade

A 28-YEAR-OLD man was arrested on Thursday afternoon for allegedly using some P11,500 in counterfeit bills at an electronic gambling machine in Manila.

Ronnie Bahalim of Tagaig City was caught carrying 23 pieces of fake P500 bills, some of which he had used unsuccessfully to play an e-bingo machine. He claimed he got the bills from a friend in Quiapo, Manila.

Supt. Ferdinand Quitoriano of the Manila Police District (MPD) Music station 11 said Bahalim was first arrested at around 4:30 p.m. by security officers of the New Divisoria Mall Bingo Center on the third floor of the Divisoria Mall along Sta. Cruz Street in Binondo.

He was later turned over to the police.

Quitoriano said that before the arrest, Bahalim was playing one of the e-bingo machines when the manager, Christopher Diaz, asked him to move to another slot. It was closer to the cash out of that particular unit.

Diaz immediately noticed a fake P500 bill on top of the stack of cash he got from the machine. "He (Diaz) became suspicious of Bahalim since he was the last person who used it," Quitoriano said.

When questioned at the administrative office, Bahalim yielded 22 more pieces of fake peso bills bearing four similar serial numbers, prompting Diaz to report him to the (MPD) station, the officer said.

METRO BRIEFS

Manila fire kills baby

A 6-month-old baby boy was killed in a fire that razed at least 200 houses in Manila's San Andres area before noon yesterday. The baby, Samuel Llamas, was left behind in his cradle as the blaze spread across Dakota, Cebu Streets in San Andres. Baby Samuel's siblings, aged 10 and 11, apparently had no guardian at home when the fire started. "The older siblings escaped unhurt. Nobody among the neighbors realized at their place that the baby was still inside," Llamas's father said.

Jeannette I. Andrade

PLM homecoming Feb. 23

The University of Pampanga (PLM) original Big Maynila-CPU) returns to their campus for a grand homecoming on Feb. 23-26, Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim welcome the alumni back at the Intramuros campus on day 1, which will also open the photo exhibit, "A Walk Down Memory Lane." Day 2 will hold events at the PNP-Multipurpose Hall, Camp Crame. On Feb. 25, the alumni will be treated to a "Padre sa Aral, Sayaw at Musika at PLM." For details, visit the alumni office or call (02) 6380534, 09175400732 or 09178880805.

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The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Chanco

German president resigns after 'favors' revelations

BERLIN—Germany's beleaguered president, Christian Wulff, announced his resignation on Friday after prosecutors asked Parliament to strip him of his immunity from prosecution over accusations of improper ties to businessmen.

Wulff told reporters in Bellevue Palace, his official residence here, that he was stepping down because Germans needed a president who had the full trust of the people.

"Events of the past days and weeks have shown that this trust, and with it my ability to work effectively, have been prominently impaired," he said. He said he was convinced the legal inquiry into his behavior would lead "to a complete exoneration."

Wulff's resignation brought an end to weeks of revelations over questions with-rich friends and a series of brave and foolish that may not have been illegal but were unseemly from before prosecutors' move, opinion polls showed that a majority of Germans believed he should step down.

The scandal was an ever-present distraction for Chancellor Angela Merkel and her government in the midst of the euro crisis. As Wulff prepared to announce his resignation, seven members of Merkel's cabinet had postponed a Friday trip to Rome to meet with Prime Minister Mario Monti of Italy ahead of a meeting Monday of European finance ministers in Brussels. Later, her office issued a statement saying that Merkel spoken by conference call with Monti and Greece's prime minister, Lucas Papademos.

Wulff's resignation was also a blow to the country's prestige at a time when German officials have been critical of politicians in other European countries, notably Greece. And it was an embarrassment to Merkel, who had

ARTIST Dieter Wenger works on his papier mache figure for a carnival float depicting German President Christian Wulff as a confused loser. AFP/DPA

lauded his appointment.

He has now lost two consecutive presidents. Wulff's predecessor, Horst Koehler, resigned in May 2010 after public outrage over comments he made about the role of the German military in protecting the country's economic interests.

Merkel, speaking at a news conference in the chancellery on Friday, said Wulff and his wife, Bettina, had "represented Germany at home and abroad with dignity." But commentators and analysts here said the affair had deeply damaged the office of the presidency, which while largely ceremonial is meant to provide a moral compass for the nation.

Merkel said her conservative bloc would hold discussions with the opposition Social Democrats and Greens over "a joint candidate" to replace Wulff. If that fails, the special assembly to elect the president, which her coalition has only a slim majority, could resolve into a tortuous run of four rounds.

Thomas Oppermann, the parliamentary leader for the Social Democrats, called on Merkel to meet with all elected parties "to find a candidate not aligned with any one party who will be capable of restoring dignity to the office." In a letter to Merkel, Gregor Gysi, co-leader of the opposition Left party parliamentary bench to discuss "the search for a candidate who will enjoy the widest possible support."

Bernd Ladwig, a professor of political science at the Free University here, said that the political toll at the moment was "considerable," but that a consensus candidate was likely necessary in one chosen, like Wulff, on party lines.

"Using the election of the federal president to draw party political advantages clearly not only disappoints the public but ultimately harms the Chancellor as well," he said. New York Times News Service

US gay marriage debate is about money, too

By Richard H. Thaler

HERE'S a love question quiz:

1. If Sue and Chris want to form a business partnership in your home state, should their sexes play any role in determining whether that partnership is legal?

2. Should it be government policy any role in deciding the roles regarding religious ceremonies like christenings and bar mitzvahs?

If you answered "no" to both questions, you are on your way to solving the same-sex marriage debate in the United States.

Early this month, a federal appeals court panel declared unconstitutional a California ballot measure making same-sex marriage illegal. Although the decision produced headlines and strong emotional reactions on both sides, the case boiled down to a single question. Are same-sex couples entitled to all those benefits "married"?

Nothing else sets at stake, because same-sex couples in California are eligible to form domestic partnerships that grant, in the court's words, "virtually all the benefits and responsibilities afforded by California law to married opposite-sex couples." Same-sex couples already had the right to live together, have sex, adopt children and so forth. They just would not call themselves married. Clearly that word is important to people on both sides of this issue.

At the federal level, however, the fight is not just about words. It is also about money. Federal law bestows a long list of rights—more than 1,000—on legally married couples. Spouses may give each other unlimited bequests tax free, and they are presumed to file joint tax returns. If one spouse is a citizen, the other can become a citizen, too, and spouses get special treatment from Social Security. For some couples, a lot of money is also at stake. Here's why this issue is a business column.

People in domestic partnerships, as well as gay couples who were legally married in a state, cannot get these federal benefits. That's because of the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act, which says, "The word 'marriage' means only a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife." So, although the headlines are being made by legislators and court decisions at the state level, the financial aspects of same-sex marriage are, for the most part, controlled at the federal level.

The Defense of Marriage Act renders the positions of many politicians logically untenable. For example, in a Dec. 13 debate among Republican presidential hopefuls, Mike Pomeroy said: "I'm firmly in support of people not being discriminated against based upon their sexual orientation. At the same time, I oppose same-sex marriage." Under current law, that is like saying 2 + 2 = 5.

President Barack Obama's view is not explicitly contradictory, but he will be a spokesman. He says marriage is between a man and a woman—although he says his view is "evolving." But unlike Romney, Obama does not support the Defense of Marriage Act and has instructed his legal team not to defend the law in court. Still, he has not spelled out what he thinks should happen if the law is ruled unconstitutional.

Fortunately, there is a simple solution to this problem, one that, based on their stated views, both Obama and Romney might support, along with anyone else who answered "no" to my two opening questions.

Congress should amend the Defense of Marriage Act to replace the sentence I quoted earlier with the following: "Whenever in the word 'marriage' or 'spouse' in any federal statute, regulation that word with the phrase 'domestic partnership between two people who] under the laws of the state where it was formed."

I am not a lawyer, so I will not try to spell out all the details of how this would work. But here is a rough outline of a plan: In my ideal world, all states would follow the federal lead. The legal unions that are now called marriages would be called domestic partnerships, which would be allowed to same-sex as well as heterosexual couples. But if some states are unwilling to enact such statutes, same-sex couples who live in those states could simply go to a state that does offer same-sex domestic partnerships, and would thus be treated as such by the federal government, with all the attendant benefits and responsibilities. Companies can choose the state in which they incorporate, so couples should have that privilege, too.

New York Times News Service

New York ban on worship in schools upheld

NEW YORK—In the latest twist of a winding legal saga over worship in public school facilities, a federal appeals court ruled on Friday that New York City was allowed to prevent dozens of religious groups from holding services in the schools.

The ruling, by a panel of the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals—which the city had asked to reverse a lower court's decision—came one day after a federal judge ordered the city to hold its ground to reject religious groups that had been worshipping in public schools on weekends.

The appeals court said that a temporary restraining order that the judge, Loretta A. Preska of US District Court in Manhattan, issued on Thursday applied only to the plaintiffs in the case before her, the Bronx Household of Faith, and not to other groups.

"The Department of Education is legitimately concerned about public schools being affiliated with a particular religious belief or practice," Jane Gordon, a lawyer for the city, said.

Jordan W. Lorence, the lawyer for the Bronx Household of Faith, said other religious groups were unlikely to try to use the facilities this weekend.

"I don't think there's going to be any civil disobedience or anything like that," he said. "The school officials would have to unlock the doors."

Lorence said other church congregations were still investigating their options. One had discussed holding services on the sidewalk, he said, while others considered renting space in synagogues or other houses of worship whose congregations meet Saturdays.

Kate O'Brien Ahlers, a spokesperson for the city's Law Department, said the city did not anticipate any confrontations.

On Thursday Preska ruled that the Bronx Household of Faith had a "clear likelihood of success" on its claim that the Constitution required the schools to remain open to them, like until her injunction would last 10 days, after which she could make the order more permanent. New York Times News Service

WORLD BRIEFS

More protests, attacks in Syria after UN rebuke

BEIRUT—Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces, disregarding UN condemnation of their violent suppression of a nationwide revolt, renewed a bombardment of the opposition stronghold of Homs and attacks on rebels in Damascus Friday. Demonstrations against Assad are reported by activists in several other cities across Syria, including the capital Damascus and the commercial hub Aleppo. After Friday Muslim prayers, despite the threat of violence from security forces, China's new foreign minister, Zhai Jun, arrived in Damascus in a show of support for Assad after the UN General Assembly passed a resolution calling the increasingly isolated president to halt the crackdown and surrender power. China, along with Russia, had voted against the motion and says Syria must be allowed to resolve its problems without being dictated terms by foreign powers. Reuters

US arrests suspect in Capitol suicide attack plot

WASHINGTON—A Moroccan man was arrested near the US Capitol on Friday wearing a vest he believed was full of al Qaeda-supplied explosives and charged in an attempted suicide bombing of Congress, the Justice Department said. Amine El Khalifi, 29, an illegal immigrant who lives in Alexandria, Virginia, was charged with attempting to use a weapon of mass destruction against property owned and used by the United States, according to a criminal complaint filed in federal court in Virginia and taken up to file in private it convicted. Reuters

Sudan, South Sudan fail to end oil dispute

KHARTOUM, Sudan—Negotiators between Sudan and South Sudan over billions of gallons of oil have ended with very little progress, prolonging uncertainty that is undermining the fragile economies of both nations and straining the tenuous peace between them after decades of war. Sudan and South Sudan have been locked in a series of talks since the south seceded and became independent in July. The volatile issues is to be resolved include the demarcation of the border separating the nations, the status of citizens in each country and, most thorny of all, oil. Most of the wells is in South Sudan, a landlocked nation, so the pipelines and the facilities to export it are in the north, requiring the two sides to remain fragile uses of Africa's longest and deadliest civil wars, to cooperate. Both nations depend enormously on the oil revenues, but the disputes between them is wide. Sudan is demanding a $36 per barrel fee, among the costs of processing the oil and various fees and services. South Sudan says that it would pay only the transit fees, putting the cost at $3 per barrel. New York Times News Service

Judicial probe says Iraq VP behind death squads

BAGHDAD—An Iraqi judicial panel said on Thursday that Sunni Vice President Tariq al-Hashemi and his employees ran death squads that hit years carried out deadly attacks on security officials and Shiite pilgrims.

The nine-judge committee's findings, which are not legally binding, offered the first independent assessment of a case that has touched off a political crisis along sectarian lines and nearly brought the Iraqi government's work to a halt. Al-Hashemi has denied the allegations, and accuses Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki of exercising a sinister campaign as part of a power grab.

Iraqi Supreme Judicial Council spokesperson Abdul-Sattar Bayrakdar said the investigating panel found at least 150 cases where either al-Hashemi, his bodyguards or other employees were linked to attacks ranging from roadside bombs to assassinations against security officials and Shiite pilgrims.

Bayrakdar, who did not offer any evidence to back up the panel's conclusions, said the death squads operated from 2005 to 2011. He said they were behind a bombing last December in the government's Integrity Commission headquarters that killed 25 people and the assassination of a deputy education minister in 2010.

There was no immediate comment from al-Hashemi or his Sunni-backed Iraqiya party.

Al-Hashemi was one of hundreds of Sunnis who were detained with others in what Sunnis called an attempt by al-Maliki and his supporters to target political enemies. AP

AL-HASHEMI

Vatican embarrassed by leaked documents

VATICAN CITY—As the world's Roman Catholics prepare for the addition of 22 members to the College of Cardinals, the Vatican has become embroiled in an embarrassing scandal to which a number of leaked documents have drawn back the curtains on the Church's inner workings.

The internal Church squabbling, predictably dubbed "Vatileaks" by the Italian media, became public about three weeks ago with the disclosure on television and in newspapers of confidential letters written by a top Vatican official who had denounced alleged corruption and financial mismanagement in Vatican City.

The writing-and feeling among experts who follow the Vatican is that the letters were a volley in a battle among officials jousting for power in a papal court where sustained leader, they say is more concerned with theological questions than with the day-to-day affairs of state.

Every journalistic who follows the Church has described the current controversy as part of "a club between cardinals in the Curia," even though the Vatican is denying it, and Paolo Rodari, who writes about the Vatican for Italian newspapers, "The scandals and letters and documents that have been published would not get out unless they came from someone inside," he added.

The Vatican has not denied the letters' authenticity, but it has issued numerous statements saying the media have blown the issues out of proportion.

The first initiative to be published done so far spring. In down, Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, at the time the deputy governor of Vatican City, found that he would be ousted after making enemies in his effort to overhaul corruption and mismanagement in the sprawling bureaucracy. He pleaded with his boss, Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, and the Pope to let him stay on. Instead, Vigano was named the papal nuncio, or ambassador, to the United States.

Bertone and other cardinals, by other Vatican officials followed, including some that suggested that the Vatican was not adequately complying with international legislation to prevent money laundering.

One anonymous document published in a national newspaper has touch-raised reports that a Sicilian cardinal had spoken regards about a plot to kill Pope Benedict XVI before the end of 2012.

The Vatican spokesperson, Father Federico Lombardi, called the reports "delicious and inappropriate."

The public airing of the Church's problems comes as an awkward time for the Vatican as it prepares to expand the College of Cardinals, which will take place on a ceremony at St. Peter's Basilica on Saturday.

It is normally a festive moment, and indeed hundreds of pilgrims have come from New York to be present when Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan becomes a prince of the Church. This time, however, some cardinals who write about the Vatican have made much of the fact that a higher-than-usual number of new cardinals are Italian or have links with the Curia, reaching the desk, they implied, to the election of the next pope. NYTNS

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IN THIS ISSUE

There's much more to Davao than Mt. Apo /B2

Filinvest giving malls ₱7-B facelift

By Paolo G. Montecillo

(Top) Filinvest's Cherry Aseneta. (Right) What Filinvest retail developments look to take...they make up for in customer experience

THORN Andrew Gotianun's Filinvest Development Corp. (FDC) is looking to establish itself as one of the most respected names in the country's retail sector as it sets out on the multi-billion peso revamp of its current projects.

The company rules that in terms of size, tying to compete with other super Metro Ayi's mall empire would be a mistake.

What Filinvest lacks in scale, it plans to make up for in the quality of customer experience that it can deliver to its customers, says Emmy Aseneta, managing director at FDC subsidiary Filinvest Alabang Inc.

"What has happened in our country is that malls have replaced parks as the place families go to as weekends to relax," he tells Scenbiz.

Because of this, he adds Filinvest's goal was to make its retail establishments—namely the Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa, and another planned commercial complex at the South Road Properties area in Cebu—true premiere weekend hotspots for Filipinos.

The company has allotted P3.5 billion for the development of each location, bringing the total to P7 billion over the next three years.

For Aseneta, malls should be more than just "big boxes" where people go to get their groceries.

"When we first opened Festival Mall years ago, a key element of the place was its entertainment. That's why we had small theme parks and other attractions inside," Aseneta explains.

"People at first in Pampanga and Bulacan were going to Fiesta Mall because the mall was a good destination," he notes.

Over the years, however, due partly to the company's own financial and other internal constraints, the Festival Mall has failed to stay fresh, causing it to lose market share to the nearby Alabang Town Center, managed by the Ayala Group.

Although Festival Mall still stands as the heart of the 244-hectare Filinvest Corporate City in Muntinlupa, Aseneta says improvements are already badly needed.

"If I remember our original game plan, these improvements should have been started five to seven years after the mall opened. That was 1997," he says.

"Now, it's already been 14 years since the mall started and there have been no significant changes," he points.

The work at Alabang would involve the construction of a brand-new wing that would increase by about 50 percent the total leasable area of the already-vast Festival Mall.

Aseneta says the company would build around a creek that runs through the Festival Mall property, letting it take a natural route that would serve as an attraction in itself.

He says the company would emphasize the need for open spaces in the new mall wing to make shopping an even more pleasant experience for customers.

Aside from this, he said the property's sloped topography would not be tampered with significantly, adding to the new mall's natural appeal.

An old Department of Health building, which has already been declared a historical landmark, would also be integrated into the mall to achieve a more cultural feel.

"We want to change the shopping center experience by 180 [plus]," Aseneta says. He says the new Festival Mall wing would be ready by 2014. Once the new annex has built, Aseneta says the company would then look its focus on refreshing the existing Festival Mall's facilities.

He adds Filinvest was also aiming to regain the "upper-A" crowd, made up of residents of posh Alabang subdivisions nearby. Aseneta says the company had succeeded this customer base in Alabang Town Center in recent years.

Festival Mall, he says, is more popular mainly with the "B" and "C" crowd, a bigger, albeit more budget-conscious consumer base.

Meanwhile, Filinvest says the company would simultaneously develop its retail property in the South Road Properties (SRP) in Cebu. The seafront SRP is just across the street from the 30-hectare, P35 billion residential space area developed by the group's residential property arm Filinvest Land Inc.

The SRP area, to be built on reclaimed property, will be given a "beach side" atmosphere. At its heart will be an outdoor sand box where nearby residents can come and relax. And as a throwback to Cebu's rich history, the company also plans to bring in a replica of an old Spanish galleon to add to the area's overall flavor.

Not to mention the company's plans to put into a three-story statue of national hero Lapu-Lapu, which was recently removed from Rizal Park for being taller than Rizal himself, will also be a key accessory amid the stores and restaurants.

Like the Festival Mall, the company plans to take advantage of the SRP's natural surroundings to create more customer-friendly surroundings.

Once all the work is done, Aseneta says the company hopes that it would "raise the bar" for malls in the country. "This is our way of giving back to our community," he says.

There's much more to Davao than Mt. Apo

Province being developed as a major destination for ecotourists as well as meetings and conventions

By Jet Vilasco

GIFTED A BIGGER bite from the tourism pie, Davao must ensure a strong stream of adventure seekers and nature lovers from both here and abroad as it positions itself as the country's main ecotourism star.

Davao, located at the southeast part of Mindanao, is blessed to have Mt. Apo to dangle the region with an abundance of natural resources.

The challenging climb to the Philippines' highest peak measures through creeks, ridges, boulders and waterfalls with an amazing panorama of rainforest and fauna, making it the province's top tourist destination.

The province also offers extreme sports like white water rafting in Davao river, ziplining in Zip City, the longest zipline in Asia, wakeboarding in Boca wakeboard park, the first cable wakeboarding facility in Mindanao, and diving in Davao Pearl Farm.

Other ecotourism sites are eadora mountain reserve in Samal and Marilog District, hiking site in Sta. Cruz, and Crocodile Park in Ma-a.

Whether it is for adventure or to simply smell the flowers, Davao is a dream destination for all nature lovers.

"If you look at the figures for Davao City compared from 2011 to 2012, there's been an increase of 18 percent at least in terms of arrivals, both foreign and domestic," says Department of Tourism Davao regional director Ito Bonacalo.

The scenery in the region is centering tourist arrivals a by way of hotel occupancy.

The town of Sta. Cruz—a gateway to Mt. Apo—only has a few home stay and low rooms, so many tourists of the town really stay in Davao City, explains Bonacalo.

Bonacalo says there is a continuing growth in tourist arrivals. Based on their second report, visitors in Davao City reached 780,000 in 2011 from the last year's 670,000. The bulk of the tourists are domestic travelers while among the foreign markets come from the United States, Japan and Korea.

He adds that the mushrooming of new hotels in Davao City is an indication of an active economy.

CLIMBERS behold nature's majesty

Mt. Apo is Davao's top attraction

Comparing from 2000, tourist arrivals have increased to about 500,000 in 2011. Bonacalo attributes the increase to strong domestic promotion and cheaper air fare.

Part of the efforts of Davao to boost tourists is by coming up with an adventure race to showcase Mt. Apo's rich biodiversity.

Recently, the 2nd International Mt. Apo Boulder Face Challenge was formally launched by the DOT Region XI and the municipal government of Sta. Cruz. The 264-hour race on the peak challenge aims to promote Davao region as a leading destination for eco-adventure tourists.

The extreme sport challenge, slated on April 24-29, will be a major highlight of the annual "Pista sa Kinalyan Fiesta" (Feast for the Environment) celebration of Sta. Cruz.

Bonacalo says the Boulder Challenge has made Davao Region, where a major portion of Mt. Apo is located, the leading destination for eco-adventure tourism. Formerly a land race, they have decided to promote it as an international event to bring in more foreign tourists.

The continued success of the Boulder Challenge encourages more people to visit their province and at the same time a big help in their conservation programs of the country's highest peak.

"Aside from ecotourism, the local government is also working very hard to promote Davao as a destination for meetings and conventions. In January we sang conventions so dumami rin ang mga tao," shares Bonacalo.

In April this year, DOT Davao is preparing to host an airline industry forum in Davao City. The convention aims to gather all airport authorities, airline companies and CEOs in order to share up plans and to fast-track linkages with Davao. Executives from Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines-East Asean Growth Area, Brunei said more 200 CEOs are expected to participate in the conference.

Bonacalo points out that showcasing Mt. Apo as a destination for adventure racers also opens new doors for destinations surrounding it. The tourists of Davao City are also affected as per Bonacalo. Vacationers could also visit Samal Island which is in Davao del Norte, and also Sta. Cruz in Davao del Sur.

"Last year's tourist arrival in Sta. Cruz alone were around 3,000-4,000, both foreign and local tourists. But for the entire Davao region, particularly in the city it is very substantial. That's why there's an increase in the establishment of hotels and lodging houses in Davao city," says Mayor Joel Duy Lopez of Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur.

Lopez also attributes the steady boom of tourists in the Boulder Challenge. Seventy did the tourists keep on coming to Sta. Cruz but also the concerted conservation is also enhanced.

As the location in the Davao region continues to flourish, more investors are now setting its potential to be the next major destination in the country.

"Davao now has 9,000 rooms and in the next two years another 5,000 more rooms are to be built to accommodate the increase in influx of tourists," says Lopez.

Meanwhile, a number of infrastructure projects are targeted to rise in the near future. SMX Davao, an 8,000-square meter world-class facility, is expected to bring in more conventions in the future and open more jobs for the province.

Through promoting Mt. Apo's natural resources, more companies are now discovering the mountain's abundant supply of renewal energy.

"Under Inc. of the Aboitiz group is given the permit to utilize the water from Mt. Apo which is the source of renewal energy for the generation of hydropower," says Mayor Lopez.

Hedcor Inc., a leading producer of clean and renewable energy in the Philippines, is already operating a 42.5 MW hydroelectric power plant in the Davao del Norte and Bukidnon provinces, which supply electricity to Davao Light and Power Company.

"Our biggest investor this year is the Aboitiz Power. Aside from expanding another 15 MW in their hydroelectric power plant, they are also in the process of putting up a 300 MW coal-fired power plant," says Lopez.

According to Lopez, Aboitiz Power already has an existing investment of P6.4 billion, and it is investing P24 billion more for the planned coal-fired power plant.

"There is also an application from the Ayala group in partnership with Mitsubishi to put up a 35 MW solar power project that we are now waiting on for the approval from the DOE. Hopefully, it will push through," says Lopez.

The Aboitiz project is estimated to be completed within four years. These investments on energy projects are expected to boost the economy and augment the supply needs of the province.

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Travel firms call for reforms

By Amy R. Remo
and Tita Arceo-Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINE Travel Agencies Association (PTAA) has urged the government to implement reforms to boost the local tourism industry and achieve the target of 10 million tourist arrivals by 2016.

In a recent briefing, PTAA president Abner L. Clemente says the group was collaborating closely with various government agencies in pushing for the rationalization of the airline tax regime, easing of visa requirements and improvement of infrastructure and connectivity.

Clemente is optimistic that the government will soon resolve the common issues.

"[When that happens,] it becomes healthier or more competitive for an international carrier to fly here," she says.

Under the current tax structure, international carriers have to pay the common carriers tax, which represents 3 percent of gross receipts, and the given Philippine billings (APBtax), which is equivalent to 2.5 percent of GPB, or an aggregate taxation on gross revenue of 5.5 percent.

Clemente also stresses the need for government to relax visa requirements to make it easier for travelers to enter the country. Safeguards should just be put in place to weed out unwanted tourists.

In terms of connectivity and infrastructure, Clemente says the industry is looking for measures or programs that will ease the travels of tourists from the time they enter the country until they reach their final destination.

Clemente says areas such as Bohol, Puerto Princesa, Davao, Legazpi, Batchelapan and Cagayan Valley are enjoying high growth rates primarily because it is not too difficult to get there.

"Those with airport gateways show fast growth simply because the infrastructure is there," she says, adding that the top destinations in the country—Cebu, Boracay and Palawan—all have extensive travel infrastructure in place.

Likewise critical to increasing tourist arrivals to 10 million by 2016 is improving "air access," says Tourism Assistant Secretary Benjamin Benipayo.

This year, 4.1 million tourists are expected to arrive, mostly from the traditional source markets of the United States, Japan and Korea.

"What will drive the numbers would be first, improvement of air access into the Philippines. The connection from foreign markets to the Philippines is limited by air carriers. It's very important for us to start talking to the airlines to increase the number of flights and increase the capacities," Benipayo explains.

The tourism official also cites the need for better "connectivity" and improved infrastructure that will allow tourists to get to and from their destinations easily.

Clemente says that the administration is already on the right track with the passage of executive orders that support the open skies policy.

"These more than anything are signals that the Philippines is open for business. The connectivity directly to specific destinations by charter was a big boost for Bohol and Chinese charters to Boracay, Puerto Princesa are the new additions," she says, "Also, the interest in the Philippines is growing and it is through the efforts of various tourism offices, private sector and local government units."

She adds that 2012 is shaping up to be a "very good year" for the country.

"I believe that the National Tourism Development Plan (the roadmap for Philippine Tourism) is a key. It is a short-medium term plan that identifies what needs to be in place for a sustainable growth for tourism up to 2016," she says.

As for the new campaign "It's More Fun," Clemente says is still only for countries integrated with the rest of the plans of the DOT under the NTDP.

"Having said that, we are in full support of the efforts that is being undertaken by the DOT in regards to this slogan. And this will be highlighted during the PTAA Travel Tour Expo," she says.

The Travel Tour Expo is the flagship exhibition of PTAA, the national association of travel agencies, and this year's edition is scheduled for Feb. 17-19 at the SMX Convention Center, Mall of Asia Complex, Pasay City.

Clemente is optimistic that 80,000 visitors will visit the exhibition and avail themselves of the discount on travel packages, considering that Filipinos are traveling more than ever.

How I learned to connect with people

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

IF IT is true that almost everything we become and accomplish in life is with and through other people, then the ability to create rapport with them is the most important skill we can learn. Looking back at the early and middle stages of my career, I identified six practices that helped me to connect with others. I trust that they will be beneficial to you in honing your skills as a communicator.

1. I understood the value of connecting with others.

As a young leader, I quickly bumped up against my personal limitations. I realized that what I could accomplish on my own paled in comparison to what I could get done by linking up with others. I became convinced that my influence depended upon my ability to connect with those around me, and I switched my mindset from being a solo performer to being a people developer.

2. I studied and imitated connectors that I admired.

As a young leader, I had an insatiable appetite to learn from the leaders who seemed effortlessly to connect with others. First, I looked at how the person connected. That is, what strategies did she employ to get through to the audience? Second, I observed how long the person succeeded. It's far easier to catch someone's attention than it is to hold his attention for an extended period of time. As I studied the great connectors, I attempted to incorporate their methods into my own communication.

3. I determined to be myself and build on my strengths.

Though I relied on the example of expert communicators, I also resolved to connect authentically by drawing upon my own unique talents. Gradually my question morphed from, "What do they have that I want?" to "What do I have that they want?" As I tapped into my natural abilities, I began to develop a distinctive style around my strengths.

My style of connection:

(1) Humor: I enjoy my audience, subject, and myself.

(2) Inclusiveness: I do not teach anything that I do not live or believe.

(3) Confidence: I naturally feel good about others and myself.

(4) Hope: I love to uplift people and encourage them.

(5) Simplicity: I am not an intellectual, and I enjoy making my lessons easily understandable.

4. I did my homework.

If you are gifted at forming relationships and do nothing to improve, you'll still be in the top 50 percent of connectors. In some-thing in the way of personal growth from time to time, and you'll be in the top 10 percent of connectors. However, to make the top one percent, you'll need to do homework every day on how to get through to others.

5. I asked for feedback.

As Stephen Covey says, "It takes humility to seek feedback. It takes wisdom to understand, analyze it and appropriately act on it." Where soliciting feedback, ask those who possess the capacity to connect. Only unasked comments can allow you reliable feedback; others can only speculate about what you did right or wrong.

6. I practiced.

The art of connection takes time to master. I started off as a terrible communicator. I was long-winded and uninteresting. Thankfully, I was determined to improve. After gaining experience, I began to think more about the context of conversation than its content. That is, I learned to focus on my audience rather than myself.

I began to rehearse my messages in front of size persons, and then in the presence of a small group, before delivering them to large audiences. The extra practice set me free to feel more comfortable and my ability to connect during actual speaking engagements.

In preparing to connect with another individual or group this week, practice the below three steps:

(1) Research and develop your message.

Who you've developed your message, seek counsel from others. What do they like or dislike about it? What recommendations do they have for making the message better?

(2) Rehearse your message.

Give your message a trial run in front of another person. Did you feel confident communicating it? How could your delivery improve?

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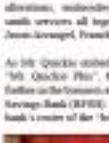
The ability to create rapport with people is an important skill to develop

Power Situation Outlook

for Sunday, 19 February 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Forecast Demand (MW)	6,325	1,017	1,110
System Peak (MW)	5,872	1,216	1,069
Reserve Margin (MW)	1,031	603	41

Mr. Quickie "Plus" BPI Family: Embarking on New Ventures in 2012



YOUR trusted shoe repair shop has just gotten bigger with the all new Mr. Quickie Plus! Working from a single kiosk, Mr. Quickie has grown to 130 outlets and is now not just your shop for shoes and bags repair, shoe expansion, and key duplication but also for embroidery and alterations. Now, clients get to enjoy more time to attend to other things that count while Mr. Quickie quickly carries their repairs and alteration needs.

"This is the first time that our country will have this kind of concept. It's not the usual Mr. Quickie store as we are combining shoes and bag services, alterations, embroidery, rubber stamp and lock smith services all together in one venue," shares Jason Arcangel, Franchising Head, Mr. Quickie.

As Mr. Quickie embarks on new ventures through "Mr. Quickie Plus", the brand also takes a step further on the footsteps as it partners with BPI Family Savings Bank (BPI FSB). Today, Mr. Quickie joins the bank's roster of the "best and brightest" businesses in the industry through the BPI FSB Ka-Negosyo first Led program, helping Mr. Quickie fulfill its plans for bigger growth.

Time-honing, with the help of BPI, Quickie's business partners, has also played a significant role in its growth and success. This year, as Mr. Quickie leads a pioneering venture through "Mr. Quickie Plus", the business is also extending its horizons beyond shores with its plans for nationwide and overseas expansions including countries in Asia, Middle East and U.K., where Mr. Quickie gets a lot of business requests. "With the help of our franchising network, we look forward to strengthening our presence not only in the cities but also in parts of Visayas, Mindanao, and hopefully, we'll be able to reach the overseas market. Mr. Quickie will go wherever there is someone who needs quickly shoe repairs and our other services," he continues.

"At BPIFSB, as a reliable business partner, we are committed to empower entrepreneurs to reach for their dream business. This year, businesses like Mr. Quickie can expect more opportunities for growth as we further lend assistance through our BPI Family Ka-Negosyo program," shares Tej Lanzares, BPIFSB President.

Photo shows (L-R) BPIFSB VP and Ka-Negosyo Loans Division Head, Cedric Perez, BPIFSB President, Tej Lanzares, Mr. Quickie and Mr. Quickie Franchising Head, Jason Arcangel

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Sunday **BIZ**

The detergent brand that could

CHAMPION now accounts for 28% of the detergent market

By Carrie Salinsing-Manlosa

CHAMPION laundry detergent has been around for a while. The brand was launched with very little fanfare, if there was any, in 1997 and has since made its way into the hearts of millions of Filipino consumers, even without considerable advertising.

From the very start, Ovaltine Products Manufacturing Corp.—the maker of Champion— focused on winning the trust of Filipino consumers by addressing their need for quality products at affordable prices.

It invested heavily in technology, research and development and its people.

Ovaltine's core use of the low to, experts detergent making technologies, which were double than of the ordinary technology, but guarantee efficient performance and quality output.

The first Champion production plant was built in Bulacan.

Ovaltine opted to grow slowly but surely establishing its presence and ensuring a strong foothold first in the provinces before venturing into Metro Manila and the war of the suds.

"We also intentionally limited ourselves to selected provincial markets at the start because we knew that the capacity of our only factory then would not be enough to support the demand of a national market, we did not want to disappoint the consumers," Ovaltine vice president for sales and marketing Jasper Tio explains.

Brand identity

With the homegrown brand already established in these selected provincial markets and the second factory (in Laguna) already built, Champion entered Metro Manila and went nationwide in 2002.

The second plant, according to Tio, bestled up capacity to a level that was enough to serve a national market.

Its strategy paid off. The brand was warmly received in Metro Manila and other markets.

Champion is now one of the top three laundry detergent brands in the country, accounting for about 28 percent of the market.

Despite an already strong following, Ovaltine knows Champion has to move with the changing times, especially with competition getting tougher.

The company admits in the past (years) or so, its business so quietly as possible, has started taking a more active position in marketing and advertising.

Ovaltine is now bent on establishing a strong brand identity that will enable more households to identify with Champion's attributes.

It got itself brand ambassadors deemed best suited to represent Champion—Smart Bacon, the queen of Philippine cinema; host Sjinn Agustillo and TV personality turned congresswoman Amy Torres-Gomez.

Bacon, according to the company, stands for the brand's ancient-provoking quality and rich heritage; Agustillo embodies Champion's dynamism and unique composition, while Torres-Gomez represents today's women who look for innovations in the products they use.

Champion advertisements because highly visible. The products are now prominently displayed in the shelves of groceries and supermarkets.

"We are doing it not just for the sake of advertising. We advertise because we have a message to tell our consumers. We want them to know what they are buying and, in so doing, we empower them to choose which products to buy," he says.

Empowering consumers

Tio says there are no promotional gimmicks—such as giveaways or price discounts—for these will only eat up funds that the company uses now for continuing research and product improvements. Ad spending is, in fact, only a fraction of what competitors are spending.

"We tell the consumers that when they buy Champion, they are buying not only our laundry detergent but our commitment to make only quality products that they can afford," he says.

"We will ensure that they can trust us as we will never compromise the quality of our products. We aim by to continue them use to accompanies on the quality of detergents they buy"

To help Champion has been doing other things in terms of consistency, quality and overall care for the users' hands and clothes, and the prices are easy on the pocket.

He describes Champion as a premium brand with a non-premium price. "We are not the cheapest in the market but we are affordable. The price factor is a qualifier but it does not guarantee success," he says.

Even the cheapest products will not sell if the quality is poor, he says. "Filipino consumers across all segments are smart and discerning when it comes to their laundry detergents. This is what guides us in making business decisions."

Affordability, quality

When it was starting, there were no market research or studies made but it was clear to the founders of Ovaltine...usually chemical and chemical engineers—that quality, consistency with affordability will make the business succeed. Thus, it did not encounter commercial production until it had the best possible laundry detergent technology in place.

To make its products affordable, the company brought down its costs by producing its own primary raw materials, particularly the surfactants. This did not only enable the company to minimize costs, it also ensured that the quality of its raw materials would not be compromised and that supply and delivery would not be scrambled.

"We are confident we have the best possible products at the market." And on what its ads suggest. The says one only needs to try Champion to find out what it offers.

"The consistency of Champion can be seen by the naked eye, it can be experienced by the user. All the granules of Champion powder are the same. The granules dissolve evenly, leaving the water clear unlike other detergents, which leave sediments," he says.

The formula in making these gems, Tio explains, is very complicated. Creating efficacy should be balanced with other considerations, including the effects on skin and even on the clothes. Champion comes in different variants to suit the specific needs of different consumers—regular, antibacterial, natural for sensitive hands, powder with fabric conditioner and others.

The company has invested big time in it technology, plants and R&D and it seems to continue making such investments in keeping with its commitment to produce only the best possible products for the Filipino consumers.

I believe we are on very secure ground because we have a complete business design that can't be easily duplicated. Our competitors will have to completely redesign their models to match our profitability," Tio says.

Civet gains lofty status in coffee world

By Lucy Swinnen
Contributor

THE CIVET was traditionally hunted as a pest, but a booming market in civet coffee has changed its fate, turning it from "pest" into "producer."

Civets (*aluroid*) are cat-like nocturnal creatures, with a penchant for sweet coffee berries. The discerning civet will consume only the ripest berries at the coffee tree, and process the pulp, but not the bean.

It takes around 20 minutes for the carnivorous creature to digest the berry and discard the bean, intact.

Gastric juices of the civet penetrate the coffee bean, leaving tiny holes, only visible under a microscope. The digestion process produces an inimitable coffee tasting experience.

CIVETS (above) are cat-like creatures who produce the expensive coffee beans.

Rare, unique product

Coffee aficionados can't get enough of the rare and unique product. Selling for as much as $50 per cup in luxury markets, civet coffee is the most expensive coffee in the world.

Presently Japan, the US and Europe represent the largest markets for the luxury beverage, but demand continues to grow across the world.

"It's very reparative because it's rare" says Gerald C. Pagsuyo Jr., 30, manager of the Julio-Campbell Agro Nonoy Memorial Park (JCAMP) and distributor of civet coffee in Sulpoles, Bugan.

Gerald Jr. inherits the land of his father and grandfather, spanning some 40 hectares of dense, native forest. His mission is to preserve traditional Ilagan farming practices and introduce new ones that will protect rivers and their forests.

Harvesting methods remain unchanged in Aripolo, coffee is still picked and processed by hand.

The biggest difference is that the new generation of farmers, look to the coffee beans on the forest floor and not the berries in the tree.

Beginning in June 2007, Gerald Jr. sought first in Aripolo to harvest civet coffee, alongside his ordinary crop. While other farmers continued to throw away civet coffee, and hunt the "crop destroying" creature, Gerald Jr. promises their survival and conservation.

Gerald Jr. also rejects slash-and-burn techniques, which many coffee farmers still practice.

"We don't like to ... follow their system of just open farming, which will cause erosion in the future ... instead of cutting down the trees, we just plant coffee under them."

Investment soon eventually won over local farmers.

Instead of collecting ordinary coffee and selling it wholesale to large companies, Aripolo farmers have tapped into the luxury civet coffee market abroad.

Gerald Jr. coordinates the sale of Aripolo civet coffee, exporting it directly to the US, Switzerland and Canada.

Civet coffee is also sold locally with local international market prices. Arabica civet beans fetch $70 per 100g while Robusta civet beans sell for $40 per 100g.

Origin

The origins of civet coffee have gained mythical status, and date back to Dutch colonial Indonesia in the 18th century.

In the story goes, the Dutch forbid local plantation workers from picking coffee berries for their own use.

The Indonesian workers noticed that local civets consumed the berries and discarded the beans. Keen to try the exotic beans, locals collected civet coffee beans for themselves.

Long popular in Indonesia, civet coffee only emerged in international markets after word spread about the exotic drink.

Many hands make light work, during the labor-intensive harvest season.

"In the community if you need help, they come and help. And you help them in return," Gerald Jr. explains.

Once the civet coffee is collected, it is thoroughly washed and dried. It is then powdered in a mortar and pestle to separate the bean from the shell.

Beans are exported unroasted, while locals sold locally are roasted in a traditional charcoal and clay pot.

In November last year a quality test tasting of civet coffee was conducted in Switzerland.

The civet coffee market has been flooded with cheap civet coffee of dubious quality and authenticity.

Recognizing farmers whose beanbase data have established legend status Gerald Jr.

Caged civets are fed large amounts of coffee, only a small part of their diet in the wild, and farmers are able to produce much larger quantities for lower prices.

The Swiss event entitled "Entre dos Mujer" featured Philippine civet coffee from Aripolo, which was sampled by Swiss roaster of the year, Andre Reichmuller and Swiss Coffee scientist Dr. Graham Wevesian, among others.

Mild, full flavor

Dr. Weviesian used a microscope to verify the civet coffee's uniqueness. Reichmuller admired the mild, full flavor.

While ordinary coffee has a bitter aftertaste, civet coffee is strong but smooth, its flavor linger on the tongue.

"Gold" is the use of Gerald Jr.'s civet rehabilitation center. When she was found in a hunter's trap in January last year, she was half-starved and scared.

Now, she normally nocturnal animal spends her days wandering around her enclosure, scratching curious passersby. Gerald Jr. hopes to bring one of all civet breeding in the community.

"If we know somebody who keeps a civet alive, we go and get them. But we don't do it by force, of course we don't want to break the social interaction with the community."

Gerald Jr. often pays the farmer for injured civets and explains that preserving them is financially beneficial.

"But in our experience there are many civets who die because they are very sensitive, even they are injured it becomes worse if it is not treated well they won't survive."

Gerald Jr. is optimistic about what the future holds. He wants to increase civet coffee production across Aripolo and promote local development.

The local community is increasingly concerned with environmental preservation. They believe the survival of the civet and fate of the community are interwoven.

"It's about keeping the forest, and how to make profit from the resources of the forest," says Gerald Jr.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2012 PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER C1

Editor Thelma Sioson San Juan

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Sexy. Stimulating. Sage. Survivor

SHARING THE VOICE OF AGE AND WISDOM

Contributing Editor Chit Rivera

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Adam and Eve (take 3) and characters in the trial

Gilda Cordero Fernando

"Men and women are so involved with each other that one is the work of the other. Without women, men could not be called men; without men, women could not be termed women. Thus woman is the work of man, while man is a sight full of consolation for woman." —Hildegard von Bingen

FOREVER 81

Elizabeth

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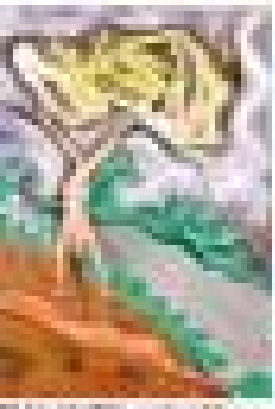
A treasure called 'me time'

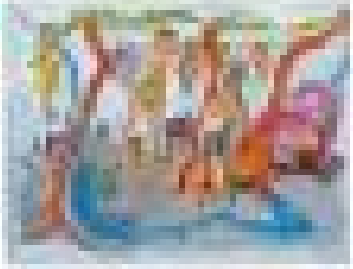
Courtesy C. Hicks

MY CHAIR ROCKS

How do I point [illegible]? I would dip my brushes in sudden and ghostly grey. But I would point outside to light patterns

Adam and Eve (Luke 3) and characters in the trial





'Cariño brutal'

Picasso museum, Antequera present revisionist portrait of wife and friend, Fergal Gaynor visits exhibition

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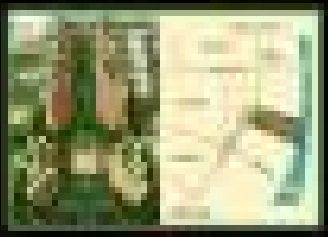

Weary: I left my keys in the car—and it's been stolen

Honest government officials die poor

Mieyong Ordoñez

GUT FEEL

People came to Tio Felix for jobs, for money, for medicines, or for coffins for their dead. Still, he loved the job

I NINE CHICK a political animal. In the 1990s, my uncle, Tio Felix Gozo, was recruited to run for mayor by the Liberal Party leaders in Mapajay, Laguna. I foresaw Tio Felix's restless and rabid supporters. As a young man, Tio Felix displayed excellent leadership qualities. He headed many youth and civic activities. I idolized him.

Human town politics is a highly personal affair. In order to the opposition we code of war: humbly, but the whole thing and all of our total harmless and peace friendship.

In Mapajay, party loyalties and fashions felt aware if their candidate is running or against (in office). Conversely, if your candidate was seen as party (out of office), his followers were equally insecure. Beginning the party became an obsessive goal for the Liberal Party.

Nominated, Tio Felix immediately plunged into his mayoral campaign. He was in his early 20s—young, idealistic and physically fit.

He campaigned after work hours and deep into the night, person to person, house by house, house to house, house to house. The leaders of the districts of Mapajay gave Tio Felix the leads on who to approach and talk to in order to win votes.

Tio Felix, the first time politician, lost the election by 258 votes, but I know he enjoyed the whole process. He enjoyed interacting with all kinds of people.

Sometime in 1958, Tio Felix ran again. This time he had more followers and he applied the lessons he had learned from the last elections. He used his loudest but better information gathering.

During election time, a vote can be won or lost in a minute manoeuvrings...such as vote buying or vote abducting. Tio Felix's usual leaders covered all bases. They listed about a dozen steps to check voters in and from the polling places.

Monumental task

Feeding voters before and after the election, and the watchers and watchers during the count, was a monumental task. Cavans of rice were cooked in the dining (basement) of our house. Sacks of potatoes, noodles, and sugar were cooked and four huge slaughtered for food.

Tio Felix won, and I don't was much expecting in our camp. The Liberal Party and Tio Felix's followers were happy to be back in power.

Just being a town mayor, as Tio Felix and his wife, Tia Lua, learned later on, was a task doomed job that included an honorary, as the eyes of his constituents, extended beyond the administrative work at the municipal and the management of projects of the town's municipal. His constituency extended also to the personal problems of the townsfolk.

Our house was always full of people. In the mornings, the callers came to loan me money for food, medicine or funerals. In the evenings, the more serious matters like farmers' shipment had to be settled, with Tio Felix acting as the go-between. Farmers needed water for the rice paddies, fences fixing a bridge in the barrio or providing drinking water to a community. Almost always, people had to be fed when they were in the house. Tia Lua's kitchen was always ready with pinoys of rice, pancit, or sautéed soy rice to feed callers, even at ungodly hours.

Tio Felix's manong, as based me into the household. Always on my watch, he had to attend sponsor at a baptism or a wedding in some town or barrio. This activity multiplied his network of voters because of increasing relationships with families of brides and grooms. The huge expenses drained his meager salary.

Still, Tio Felix loved the job. We never heard him complain. He'd wake up even at midnight to receive a farmer who would report that his carabao had been stolen. He'd spend nights talking to families to solve problems about division of inheritance. People came to him for jobs, for money, for medicines, or for coffins for their dead. They came to him to ask for funds, bridges and basketball courts in their barrios.

Even on Sundays, Tio Felix would go to Santa Cena, the town capital, to ask Governor Isa Lua for funds for an irrigation project. Tio Felix was a 24-hour public servant.

Exemplary

Tio Felix was the for reelection in 1965. His re-election campaign. His chances of winning were great. But he had financial problems. He needed several thousands to spend for his campaign, but he didn't have the funds. Tio Felix's widowed mother and my lolo had used all the cavans from in Kalabang Bay to add to the party's campaign budget.

As a third-term twelve-termite, Tio Felix had acquired and developed the instinct to win. He became very good in the art of persuasive oratory. His leaders were loyal and strategically placed all over towns and barrios. And the support system of transporting and feeding voters was properly funded to ensure victory.

Tio Felix won again in 1965. But during his second term, the 24-hour job took its toll on his health. He lost weight and showed signs of aging. He became thin and sickly. He died of a heart attack in the area of Tia Lua, the woman who loved him through thick and thin. He was 55 years old.

The whole town came to the funeral of Tio Felix. When his coffin was lowered into the grave, rain were played. Then the tiny pinoy Dolan Street fired their guns in the air in a way of saying farewell. The folded Philippine flag that covered the coffin was handed to a teary-eyed Tia Lua.

My uncle, Mayor Felix Gozo, died poor. He served the people of Mapajay unselfishly 24/7 and night, rain or shine. When he died, the biggest thing he left his family was a name called honesty. Honesty in public service. And a folded flag of the Philippines.

E-mail: fgozodones@gmail.com.

RE-ELECT

FELIX

GOZO

FOR MAYOR

THE 1965 ELECTION leaflet of the author's late uncle, Felix Gozo, under the Liberal Party.

'Cariño brutal'

from page C1

appropriating the wink under pressure from each onlooking us, "You could have at least have gone to the beauty parlor, it would have helped...you know," or "Di nada ka sanang makeup."

Those critical round like my mom, who happened to be the classic beauty, who was always clueless to the moon, if simply like teh she owed it to her adoring public to look her best. It was not so hard for her, being photogenic at any age, and it must have been quite frustrating for her to have a daughter like me. I am still beat her: What is that you are wearing again? Do something about that hair, please.

Well, after some self-academia, I guess I may not have wanted to even try as mom suggested so that I would have an excuse for not being as pretty as she. Also, under grooming became a habit.

An equal of my mom's in looks, me looking, is as rare as they come. She'll be long-ve another group of concerned readers of mine.

"Rosalinda ka," she began as she welcomed me at her husband's recent wake. Tall and severe in tone and glamorous in her long leopard gown from with matching shoes and cane, she seemed, even at 91, conscious not to disappoint her public and, again, like mom, she never did.

Pulling me aside, she looking whispered her own concern. "Eka mom, aren't you with your second husband, Justin, anymore?" Bumuwal ito 20 year, and very much, she sighed in relief, and proceeded to give her own advice. "There, why don't you use your married name? You should. *Magpakabait ako.*"

I suppose you just can't please everyone, particularly lovingly involved characters in your life.

'Philippine Ancestral Gold' book to be launched in Singapore

"PHILIPPINE ANCESTRAL Gold," a book collaboration of Ayala Museum and NUS Press of Singapore, will be launched in Singapore on Feb. 21 at the Asian Civilizations Museum.

Definitive and compelling, the book provides the art-historical context of 1,000 pre-Hispanic gold objects found across the Philippines and which are on permanent exhibition at Ayala Museum.

The book's Singapore launch is all the more meaningful because it is Ayala Museum's first collaboration with an overseas publisher, the NUS Press. The book will be presented by editor and author Dr. Florina Capistrano-Baker, curator of the "Gold of Ancestors" exhibition, and coauthor John Miksic, emeritus professor of South and Southeast Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore.

Guests from the Philippines will be led by Ayala Corp. chair Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala and president Fernando Zobel de Ayala, and Ayala Foundation executive director for art and culture Maribel Ongsiako. They will be joined by an audience from the academic and museum communities and members of the private sector of Singapore.

The Singapore launch is a follow-up to the book's successful launch at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, New York, in November 2011. Observed Raja McGowan, associate professor from Cornell University, New York: "This new material on the Philippines opens a whole new chapter in scholarship."

Sunday LIFESTYLE

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph
Website: www.inquirer.net/lifestyle

Iñigo Zobel bringing in Hello! mag

"FASCINATION" and high-society magazine Hello! is coming to the Philippines.

The glossy, which has several international editions, will be brought to the Philippines by businessman Iñigo Zobel.

Hello! is known for putting royalty and celebrities on its cover, as well as for its coverage of high-society weddings and the dating life of entertainers and sports superstars. It's known to scare tycoon-cum-entertainer, including media-star-cybercop of tabloid-worthy subjects.

Hello! was first published in 1988 as an offshoot of the Spanish magazine Hola!

Is there room for yet another high-society magazine? Should be interesting to see.

Knit queen Tan-Gan shifts to 'more modern' fashion

KNIT QUEEN Lulu Tan-Gan is rearing her throne.

The longtime Solenad designer, who set up her Tan-Gan brand over 20 years ago, announces she's shelling genes to focus on a "more lifestyle, modern fashion."

Tan-Gan will next apply her decades-long experience working with indigenous materials to design a contemporary line—"Indigenous Couture," it's called—that has a long-term goal of supporting the global market.

Near-demolition of Art Deco Meralco building raises awareness for heritage conservation

By Ivan Anthony Henares
Contributor

NOT SINCE the Jai Alai Building was bulldozed in 2000 has a demolition in Manila gotten so much attention. Just like the Jai Alai Building, the Meralco Head Office along San Marcelino is one of the finest Art Deco buildings ever built in the country.

It was designed by architect Juan Arellano in 1936. Its façade has relief sculptures by Francisco Rizzolo Monti.

The Andanan Music collection makes the building even more significant.

According to architect Paulo Alcazaren, the Meralco Head Office is "one of the key urban edifices in burgeoning Manila, the headquarters of the power and transportation company Meralco (Manila Electric Railroad Light Company) is one of the most modern commercial buildings in Manila before the war and was designed in the Art Deco streamline style. It had the country's first air-conditioned office spaces. (Carmen). The building's most distinctive feature was a tall (five-story) sculptural relief by Francisco Monti."

> It's the architects who should have known the value of the building

Last July 4, we received information from a heritage advocate who happened to drive by the building, that it was almost gone. He added that if nothing was done over the weekend, the façade could be gone by Monday. Given that it was a weekend, it was a challenge getting government bureaucracy involved.

Republic Act No. 10066, also known as the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009, prohibits the demolition or modification of any building 50 years or older without the permission of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

Local building officials must now include this requirement to all applications for demolition permits of these old structures that are now covered by a presumption of heritage value. This also means that they are also not allowed to condemn heritage buildings without the permission of the NCCA.

There was a lot of concern about the Monti sculpture. Architect Manolo Noche notes, "More than any other works by Monti, the 'Pahati' is his one big commissioned bas-relief that is not religious in nature. This should be declared a national work of art. If lost, this is tantamount to artistic murder."

Historian Ambeth Ocampo of Vitalista Manila, who has made extensive documentation of the works of

MAIN DEMOLITION D2

MEGAMALL

mega dine!

ENDLESS DINING DISCOVERIES REVEALED ONE BITE AT A TIME BY TWO INCURABLE FOODIES, CASSIE AND DINO

Holy Cow!'s ALL MEAT SET

about us

Hello, my name is Cassie, and I've never met a cow I didn't like, which obviously means I'm no stranger to the inexhaustible delights of SM Megamall. In truth, my bubbly cohabitant was somewhat of an accidental foodie's accomplice this mighty shopping emporium mall. Then, two years ago, I reconnected with Dino, my childhood best friend. "Cassie," he asked solemnly (even as a kid, he was known as serious), "don't you see that there are just so many dining revelations here as there are shopping ones?" I stood before him, humbled. Thus began our SM Megamall food adventures. Since then, Dino and I have dedicated our free time to encountering the latest restaurants, cafés, dessert bars, and food kiosks here in SM Megamall—there are no rules. It's boring not to be a hideous pig. Along the way, we've reminisced about old times, and created new memories (hope you enjoy our chronicles. P.S. I write; he photographs).

"Good boys deserve" Dino exclaimed after digging into this protein-packed paradise of grilled boneless chicken thighs, baby back ribs, and pork chops. Served with rice, veggies, fries, and Cokes (or the popular thatt ranch and grillers, Whatever world they except, "dessert bonbon").

Ibarakiba's SEAFOOD UMMALAYAS

Fresh mussels, Pacific clams, shrimps, calamari, and delicious sausage cooked with cajun spiced long grain rice, this is paella, New Orleans style! Sealing the deal for me in this restaurant are their hefty, coconut-based portions that are always big enough for sharing.

Classic Savory's FRIED CHICKEN

Dino's desirous plan is to befriend the owners, earn their trust, and ultimately extract their top-secret recipe! The special marinade, spices, and frying method—with chicken like outstanding, who needs gravy!

Amici's SPAGHETTI AI TESORI DEL MARE

"The pasta dish deserves its own heart! In this unassuming bowl nestled with cozy olive and chili oil's generously, but doesn't hide back on the scallops, clams, and mussels. It's entirely deserving of its "Treasures of the Sea" name.

A Venezia's FAMILY PLATTER

Dino won't admit this parade was delicious. The salads, pastas, and pizzas always look available to supporting, and the servings are enormous, generous. Today, we tackle Family Platter, composed of chicken wings, crab sticks, potato balls with cheese, and then—instantly, it became our new favorite sharing dish!

about us

restaurant list

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THE BRIDESmaid divas Jeanie and in "Bahala Na Ang Bonifacio Bel Quimpo," Jill and Alice Punsalan; Margie Q. Fajnzylber, Catharine and Pamela Espino; Heather, Lia, TJ and Joey Quimpo; Mark Espino

MAY Quimpo and Robin Bagsakan of Century Park Sheraton; Samuel Jr. Mitra and engineer Eugenio Mitra; Robert Cortes; Victor Concepcion; Mr. and Mr. Kanjanomas de los Reyes

ISABEL and Albert Quimpo just after repeating their vows in the Holy Mass

Albert and Isabel Quimpo: Love like gold

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Center Finals | March 17 | March 18
2nd Qualifying Period | March 19 – April 12 | March 9 – April 13
Center Finals | April 14 | April 13
3rd Qualifying Period | April 15 – May 10 | April 16 – May 11
Center Finals | May 12 | May 13
National Finals (Day 1) | May 18 | May 20
National Finals (Day 2) | May 19 | May 27
National Finals (Day 3) | | May 27 SM Fairview
2ND LEG: GRAND PRIZE: CHEVY CRUZE
PERIOD | NORTH EDSA | MALL OF ASIA & FAIRVIEW
1st Qualifying Period | May 13 – June 21 | May 14 – June 22
Center Finals | June 23 | June 24
2nd Qualifying Period | June 24 – July 19 | June 25 – July 20
Center Finals | July 21 | July 22
3rd Qualifying Period | July 22 – August 16 | July 23 – August 17
Center Finals | August 18 | August 19
National Finals (Day 1) | August 25 | August 26
National Finals (Day 2) | September 1 | September 2 SM Mall of Asia
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PERIOD | NORTH EDSA | MALL OF ASIA & FAIRVIEW
1st Qualifying Period | August 29 – September 27 | August 26 – September 26
Center Finals | September 28 | September 30
2nd Qualifying Period | September 29 – October 25 | October 1 – October 29
Center Finals | October 27 | October 28
3rd Qualifying Period | October 28 – November 22 | October 29 – November 23
Center Finals | November 24 | November 25
National Finals (Day 1) | December 1 | December 2
National Finals (Day 2) | December 8 | December 9 SM Mall of Asia
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SM BOWLING
CHEVROLET

ISABEL ESTRELLA voice cracked as she uttered a pious and heartfelt request of the words of the Amen vow she made before God and Albert Quimpo before the same altar 50 years ago.

The children and grandchildren were snickering and/or wiping tears away as they witnessed late and July affairs the promises they made to each together for better or for worse, for richer for poorer, in sickness and in health till death do them part.

Last Jan. 7, 100-cool Saturday morning, at the same San Agustin Church in Intramuros where they married in 1962, Albert and Isabel gathered their four children and their spouses, their eight grandchildren and eleven relatives and friends for Holy Mass to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

The solemn reenactment did not end there. After Albert and Isabel repeated their vows to each other, their four children also tendered the same sacred words with their spouses: Tito with fiancé, Joey with Lia, Margie with Cher, Jill with Allen.

A most fitting breakfast reception followed at the Aristocrat by the bay the same restaurant that hosted their wedding reception in 1962 and where Albert and Isabel frequently dined during their courting days.

Party followed in the evening with the children hosting members of the extended family and friends at the Sheraton ballroom. Cuenta were treated to a story of the Albert and Isabel love story which began when the two met by chance at a charity dance in Iloilo. Albert, who was a budding lawyer just graduated from the dances and Isabel was taking her masters at the Ateneo de Manila University while teaching at the NBC.

The following night, Albert came with visions of grand and an encouraging romance, and serenaded Isabel the old-fashioned way. The courtship continued to Manila and before long, they were at the altar of San Agustin Church.

They were blessed with four children as Albert pursued a career in business management in the country, retiring in his youth as commissioner of the National Labor Relations Commission. Isabel became a concentrate high school teacher well loved by her students, until both reached the mandatory retirement age.

The eight grandchildren are Gabi Quimpo, son of Tito and Cristy; Bethni and TJ Quimpo of Joey and Liz; Hiark, Dominic and Catherine Espino, the children of Sharon and Chet; and Nicolas and Mika Paredes, children of Jill and Allen.

ALBERT III

SYLVIA Reyes Tirol, Al Tirogan, Lizette Reyes

CHET Espino on bass; Gabi Quimpo on sax, Nicolas Paredes on violin

TITO Quimpo on drums

THE QUIMPO brood. Nicolas Paredes, Gabi Quimpo, Aiken Paredes, Liz Quimpo, Grace Quimpo, Catharine Espino, Patricia Espino, the couple, Mika Paredes, Nathan Quimpo, Mark Espino, Margie Q. Espino, Tim Quimpo. Seated: TJ Quimpo, Jill Q. Paredes and Chet Espino

Albert and Isabel Quimpo . . .

Personage Oct

HO DENERATION'gap on this one. Mush-mark was put into the Bruno Mars number by Albert and Isabel Quimpo's children and grandchildren.

A highlight of the evening party was when eldest son Tim honored the celebrants with a toast. "... for teaching us your children the value of prayer." After the glasses were raised he uttered a second one, "... for teaching us the value of education, of honesty and integrity in our professional work." And then a third toast, "finally, for teaching us the value of marriage."

Singing and dancing followed, beginning with a well rehearsed Bruno Mars number by all of the children and grandchildren, and a band number with the entire children and grandchildren playing the instruments.

DMIT and Margie Q. Espino, Tim and Grace Quimpo, Jerry and Liz Quimpo, Allen and Jill Q. Paredes

BIENVENIDO and Lua Borgos , Claus and Connie Euskirl, the couple

YESS Laguarna, Isabel Quimpo, Lourdes Lichtenberger, Teresita Dancuso-Roque

NENETTE Cosme, Secretary Samp Cosme, Isabel Quimpo, Dr. and Ms Ramos Florendo

GREEN RESORT AWARD

Dalayan Beach and Mountain Resort in Puerto Princesa, Palawan was recently recognized in the 2012 Asean Green Hotel awards. The award was held in Medan, Indonesia, during the 2012 Asean Tourism Forum. Citing the 14-suite resort's environment-friendly and sustainable features, Dalayan treated thousands of well-known ASEAN resorts for the award that is given only every two years. The honor was received by Dalayan chair and CEO Rabee Banh Tan and his wife Maria, Clifford and Deborah Tan. It was presented by the Indonesia Minister of Tourism and Creative Economy Mari Elka Pangaru, Tourism Secretary Ramon Jimenez, Tourism Director Ms. Rita Baeno. Visit http://dalayanresort.com.

MEGAMALL

mega dine!

5 HOLES IN DINING DISCOVERIES REVEALED ONE BITE AT A TIME BY TWO INCURABLE FOODIES, CASSIE AND DINO

Bubble Tea's Nippon Eki & Milk Tea

FEB 15 2012

"Presentation more closely takes from a winner in my book," recalls Dino, referring to the cute graphics of the paper placemat. Fascinating too—a Japanese comic, as they sometimes call it—and adorable figure prominently (and colorfully) in both dishes.

Orchard Road's STIR-FRIED NOODLES

FEB 18 2012

Who knew the modern Singaporean cuisine oh-so-hip, I really like how I can linger around the open kitchen taking in the wok-fiery action before tasting my choices on the furnished order slip. More impressed than a fussed Singapore resident, I now discover this dish is not to be known in some 20 ingredients but something so supremely simple as well.

Nihon Bungar's BURGER W/ FRIES

FEB 16 2012

Since I've been a fan for years, I know the drill: the patties are never frozen, meaning they taste the juices admirable. Too enough, this is kept in its bottom. But the real clinches at least for me, are those delicious "extras"! My cheese-onion rings, Roasted Garlic Aïoli, and Honeyed Onions.

Mesa's TINAPA ROLLS

FEB 17 2012

The flakes of tinapa—smoked fish with tomato, onion, and salted egg—are nicely surrounded by the crunch of both the fried wrapper and the lettuce wrap, while the spicy vinegar sauce ropes into fantastic assistant.

Mann Hann's MAKI MI NOODLES

FEB 17 2012

This is essential chinese comfort food, Manchurian style. Tender beef pork, fishball, fishcake, and is lightly seasoned soup, enriched by egg noodles and spring onions. On a cold day, it's the perfect drink-up. On a hot day, we mean it's the perfect drink-up. On a cold day, it's the perfect drink-up. On a hot day,

Will her interracial romance work?

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcos

Stop putting barriers where there shouldn't be any

DEAR EMILY,

I'm a 25-year-old Filipino woman, now an Australian citizen, working as physical therapist in one of the hospitals here. I'm presently seeing a quiet, attractive, single guy who is 41. I find him a bit older than me, though he could pass for 35 because of his quiet lifestyle.

He's very stable, very loving and has a super loving family I've already met. He has a nice house and wants to settle down. He feels strongly about me, but I am bothered by our huge age gap. I know that if you love someone, you will look beyond these things. I've known him for over three years now and he is waiting for my decision.

What I think of the future and our age difference. I am thinking that when he's 60, I would only be 44. Everyone says that there is only a gold-digger or smut hits to stay in the country legally.

People's perception of interracial relationships in this place can be cruel. A Filipino workmate who got her citizenship after marriage to a man said that through her husband was hailed at work, to the point that she had to resign after years of being treated horribly.

I'm being a realist. I'm a sensitive person, not at all the dominant, frank type, and I'm not sure if I can take (or how long I can take) what people will be saying behind my back if I end up with him.

ANNE

We're talking apples and oranges here. You're not a (cheap hermit) or an uneducated prospective child bride desperately trying to hook any decrepit old man via the Internet or pimps to get out of poverty! You're a professional woman who got to where you are, including your new citizenship, through your own sweat and nobody else's!

As to your age difference, why are you jumping the gun and assuming he is 60 years old? In your mental ball (but accurate score here the rest of you will look 20 years hence)! It may interest you to know that no matter how young or old teenagers look, they will always oppose older than them their age or younger. No shortcuts there, just a fact.

Come home and see how most women in their 50s or 70s look nowadays. They're the new 40s or early 50s! No wonder he's not ready. I'm not surprised. You'll get shocked at how young most of them look. You'll have problems with forkbeardness with anybody you choose.

So stop putting barriers where there shouldn't be any. Or are shadows where there aren't. As long as you know you are marrying the man because of love and not as a stepping stone to a better life, you will be okay whatever the parental gallery may think.

Be proud of your merits and stand your ground against the bigotry and ignorance around you. They don't know you as you know you!

E-mail the author at emarcos@inquirer.com.ph or emarcos627@gmail.com. Subject: Lifestyle

5 things to remember when you feel blue

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Cabadlit

Sitting with sadness is very important. Inner work must be done so you can find out what's causing the blues

THIS WEEK I found myself swapping that word.

I found my patience wearing thin and I felt more tired. Things I would normally let go of, seemed to be magnified. There was something amiss, and for a few days I couldn't figure out what it was.

Then I came to see "The Intermediates"—a gem of a film, which I highly recommend. The story deals with anticipatory grief and loss, and struck close to home. It brought to light feelings in my own past.

My son, who passed away in 1998, would have been 18 on Feb. 21. If he were still with us, many months, he would have completed high school. It's a landmark year of sorts, letting emotions rise, unsettling my equilibrium this time of the year, and manifesting in my overgrown.

Over the last few days I've been wanting to alternately hide in a cave, drown myself in work, or hit the gym until I drop. Instead, I've managed to find a balance by throwing in trips to the spa, watching action and romantic comedies, and just being cuddled by my husband.

Psychotherapist Bobbi Emel, who writes for Boston Blog, gives the following tips for whenever people find themselves in a funk.

One, we need to remember that emotions are often short-lived and transitory. The blues do not read. I pointed it on the day I was feeling down. Sadness was certainly not on. Examine, confront and act on it.

Second, Emel suggests that we think about our experiences in the present—in the moment—rather than fall prey to worth like "always" and "forever." No emotions lasts forever unless you have something that can be found in DSM IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders), and even then, all is not lost, because in addition to talk therapy there is now a wide array of medications to help address profound sadness (like depression), or other mental issues.

Not everyone who experiences sadness over time is depressed. In my case, my son's upcoming birthday was a good trigger. Knowing that, I've given myself permission to allow the ups and downs of my emotions until his landmark birthday passes. After that, I know in my heart I'll be all right again.

Finding means of what's going on inside helps keep your emotions in check. Author Chan Inth out of your mental and desired to cast and rave about insignificant issues, which many people who are in denial often do, you can opt to leave the room, run around the block, or do whatever it is that will get your heart to beat.

Third, Emel says, "Take a deep breath and release the painful emotion, holding on to the sadness that it won't last forever."

What I've found helpful is to go on a long hike by myself or attend dance class. Deep breathing also helps. I've tried it on the days I was hiking, and it's a magical way of alleviating pain, making you aware that whatever it is, this is just for the moment. Hold it, then release.

Dance class has the same effect. After an hour of sweating to Beyoncé, Shannon L, Nikki Minaj or whatever else is on the instructor's playlist, I find that my blues have smoothed away. Movement in any form—walking, running, dancing—helps release toxins by increasing your happy hormones.

Next, allow yourself to be really present and aware when your emotions change. When I shut other things out and focus on the task on hand, my emotions are able to exist in the moment. I am saying my mind not talking about my son can actually be a challenge—it's truth when all of a sudden I begin to feel a lump in my throat and my eyes began to blur. Emel says that sometimes the difference is called. Or, but once you begin to see the transition, you become more confident that you can respond to everyday situations. Emotions all have their own season, they come and go.

During difficult periods, do something nice for yourself. It can be as simple as an extra half hour in the bath, shopping in her favorite, a massage. Indulging in dessert. Or, if you're like me, a combination of all of the above. When you're in a funk, step

Near-demolition of Art Deco Meralco...

THIS CRUCIAL
lockdown shows how the point that architects have a large responsibility in the preservation of our heritage sites.

Mount in the Philippines, pointed out the plight of the said Mount's work during a meeting at the HCCA just two days before.

A determined campaign to halt the demolition was initiated on the Internet. Akasa.mura joined the operation, "We've lost another heritage building! Why don't people use the rules in conserving layers of history?"

He adds: "[Layers] subtract which we will eventually lose all ties to the past, all hope of a foundation for any tallish future, a future that now seems destined to create placeless cities, and less buildings devoid of history, culture or sense of identity, save those imposed by the gods of profit."

Members of the Heritage Conservation Society (HCS) worked to identify the owners of the building and to appeal to them to stop the demolition. Several members of the Lopez family were connected.

However, since the Lopezes no longer control Meralco, they referred us to Meralco management. It would later be confirmed that the building was no longer the property of Meralco.

HCS chairperson Jovinas Cruz-Jimenez immediately contacted Manila Building official engineer Melvin Balagot who then went to the site on Sunday, Feb. 5, to inform them that he was suspending the demolition permit that he had issued.

The Meralco building property had been divided into two. But a single demolition permit was issued for both sides. One side contained the work of Mínid. It was the opposite side that was being demolished.

The implementation of BA1 8006 is on stall in the park.

The crucial incident drove home the point that architects have a large responsibility in the preservation of our heritage sites. After the owners were informed about the value of the structure, they stopped the demolition.

It shows the significant role that the United Architects of the Philippines (UAP) should play in the discussion of the Heritage Law among its members. If there's anyone who should have understood the value of the structure, it should have been the architects.

While they may not have had anything to do with demolition, they should have informed the owners immediately that there was a heritage building in their property. The subjective issues of the Meralco Building as façade or entrance portal could have been prepared.

As Dom Galicia points out: "There seemed to be guidance from their architects regarding the value of Juan Arellano. The owners have stopped the demolition and Pablo Akasa.mura is going to try to convince them to recreate a replica of the façade, and to preserve instances of the interior here and there."

Akasa.mura is now part of the team of architects that will incorporate the Meralco Building façade in the new structure.

Another realization is that it is not part of the competencies of the Manila Building Official and his staff to know what is a heritage building. Still to say the ordinance have no training for that. This explains why the Department of Public Works and Highways is among the top violators of the Heritage Law.

A comment left by Ian M. Gilbert, BSc, PCEP BuildingLine, MRICS, MCIArb, from London, points out several issues. He says, "Frankly, I'm stunned that this has been allowed to happen! I had been looking forward to photographing it when I visited the Philippines later this year! BA1 8006 has been in force for a couple of years now (as appears to be still virtually unknown. The architects should have known that this building was covered by the 50-year rule; presumably they have to undertake QTO (Conducting Professional Development) like other professionals?

"Additionally, I would assume that some form of permit would have to be obtained for the demolition and/or new construction works? Whoever has the responsibility for issuing this permit should surely be inquired to know about this (one as it would be one of the legal reasons he/she issuing a permit). Certainly, all those to such positions should now be made aware of BA1 8006 and of who to contact to gain heritage advice.

"Obviously, one of the reasons for such occurrences is that there isn't a national list of buildings of heritage significance, to the UK they are usually called listed buildings! However, the content of the 50-year rule means that such a list would consequently be falling out of date as additional structures fall within the age bracket.

"Further to that is the fact that compiling such lists takes years. The legislation to prevent heritage buildings in the UK was first passed in 1947 and yet new buildings are constantly being added to the list as they come to people's attention or their significance is understood.

"How much of the original building was remains? You mention that the artwork remains, which is vital. Your photograph at the start of the article stated this also shows the frame of the façade. From photographs I have seen on the Internet, this is also longer true as the canopy had a 'stylized eye motif' which must be retained, along with the curved entrance way and staircase at ground floor level. Similarly, the gate grill and high level metal work must be repaired and reinstated.

"A good architect will be able to both preserve what remains while tying it into a new structure behind the restored façade, although I'm sure we all agree this would have been better without any demolition, at least until those parts of heritage significance could be identified.

"Remembering the current remains on a different site must always be a very last resort. I sometimes deal with listed buildings, particularly railway stations, as part of my work and would like to see this former transport building given a happier future."

"The irony is that if this case happens in the center of Manila and to a building whose importance was raised to the 2011 book for Cities in the Philippines," then what is happening to those buildings in other parts of Metro Manila and also to the provinces?"

Jean Anne Filipinas Bennett, a granddaughter of Mínid, reacted. Translated from Italian by HCS trustee Tim Marcelino, Bennett's comments: "How much suffering I feel to see the destruction of cultural heritage in Manila! It has cost much hard work for the architects and sculptors. Who knows what Mínid, my grandfather, could be thinking where he is. Filipinos must rebel against such destruction."

The HCS and City of Manila are considering with the Institute of Philippine Culture (IPC) of the Ateneo de Manila University talents has been conducting comprehensive and innovative surveys and research on the built heritage of Metro Manila (MEH), to provide the MH with that list.

The IPC list covers the entire Metro Manila which can also be submitted to local building officials of other LGUs like San Juan, Pasay, Malabon and Quezon City, which still have a significant number of heritage structures.

The National Museum has also been monitoring the developments.

According to museum director Jeremy Barns, they have been in contact with representatives of the owner of the Mínid side. And the Museum has been assured that he is determined to preserve the Mínid work.

The Meralco Building, later news about the demolition of the wings of the Mínid-Occidental Capitol also by Juan Arellano, and the spate of demolitions that have been going on the past few weeks and months...notably Juan Nakpil's Bonifacio Building flattened by ABS-CBN... has finally gotten our policy makers moving.

On Feb. 15, the HCCA finally approved the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of RA 10066. Although the law has been in effect since last year, the IRR makes its implementation clearer.

According to Barns: "Concerns about the Meralco Building contributed to the concerted effort to approve the IRR on RA10066."

Our built heritage continues to survive. Every Filipino must contribute to ensure that we are able to pass it on to the next generation.

Jean Anthony Kimuyo is vice president of the Heritage Conservation Society and represents the Iconos Philippine National Committee to the International Council Tourism Committee of Iconos. He is a senior lecturer at the UP Asian Institute of Tourism and writes about travel and heritage in his blog www.jean-kimuyo.com

MEGAMALL
mega dine!
ENDLESS DINING DISCOVERIES REVEALED ONE BITE AT A TIME BY TWO INCURABLE FOODIES, CASSIE AND DINO

Sugarkisses's CASHEW TOFFEE

"Are you kidding me?" Dino asked. "No we even expected to put up an exhibition of resistance against this cake!" So, I smiled. Dino, it's chocolate chiffon. Yes, it's filled with mousse and a touch of rum. Three, it's glazed with buttercream. Four, it's topped with chopped cashew. White flag's waving, eh?

about us

Hello, my name is Cassie, and I've never had a job I didn't like, which obviously means I'm no stranger to the meticulous delights of SM Megamall. In truth, my hobbies consider me somewhat of an authority (ooo!) on this mighty shoe-'til-you-drop mall. Then, two years ago, I recommended with Dino, my childhood best friend "Cassie" he asked reluctantly (even as a kid, he was always so serious). "don't you see that there are just so many dining revelations here to share via shopping sees?" I said before him, humbled. Thus began our SM Megamall food adventures. Since then, Dino and I have dedicated our free time to unearthing the latest restaurants, cafés, dessert bars, and food kiosks here in SM Megamall—there are so many. It's turning out to be a full-time gig. Along the way, we've come to cried about old times... and created new memories. Have you enjoy our chronicles (P.S. I write) by photographed.

Tutti Frutti's YOGURT W/ TOPPINGS

I know yogurt is run-fat, low-taste of calcium and probiotics, and is great for your digestion, but oh! I really do care about to find this US-based chain has nearly one yummy yogurt flavor for every week of the year! And please don't get me started about the countless combinations of chocolate, candy, cereal, and fruit toppings...

Cavalicious's BANANA BOAT

"I love it that you habitually experiment," I told Dino, "but before you customize your cereal brands, toppings, ice cream, syrups, and milk flavor, please savor the first." The best is that the second we saw your first ice cream flavors disappeared months and your white the peach slices bring added sweetness.

Brownies Unlimited's PARTY CUPCAKES

Dino and I have known for a while now that their brownies are fabulous, so we decided to reinvent our first cupcakes to the test. As expected, the cake part was rich and moist. The meringue icing? Yet agreed it was, that can't be made a mixture of with beaten egg whites and sugar then perfectly crisp.

Dairy Queen's FRUITASIA

"I really can't decide, Dino!" I pled. "Can't we have a taste-taste of all of them?" Yes, I admit it was my immature friend replied. "All right," I sighed, "and this will be our dessert, please—the fruitasia! Yellow, it has pineapple and strawberries on a bed of chocolate-flavored waffles!"

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IN THIS ISSUE
A treasure called 'me time' /C2

Sunday LIFESTYLE

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Impeach that hairstyle!

With boredom setting in at the Corona impeachment trial, the public is starting to probe the protagonists' grooming

MR. SUAVE. Is that you? Cuevas' hairline is diametrical the "Simpsons" character.

CRISTINA Corona surely needs a color touch-up.

IF HIS gray hair-free head is any proof, Corona is unaffected.

SMILE'S ageless hair—still jet-black at 88

'FUPAS' Cashapay hairstyle is distracting court blunders.

LACSON, the undisputed poster boy of man's grooming

HE HAS GUTS embarrass his salt-and-pepper hair.

By Cherie Y. Floral

IT WAS begging to happen.

In the long, silent excruciating hours the nation spent glued to the boob tube, watching the Corona impeachment trial drama unfold, it was only a matter of time before people's interest got swayed from the more pressing issues to focus on the physical peculiarities of the trial protagonists.

Perhaps it's boredom, or just classic armchair critiquing at work, but soon enough, the nation was counting the moles on the senator-judges' mugs or taking potshots at the lawyers' hair—or lack of it—in social networks.

This isn't unique in Philippines. The grooming of public figures is heavily scrutinized and discussed everywhere—what it says about the person, what it represents, what it should mean to the people. Is s/he honest, dependable, hardworking, a control freak, or a total loony? It's unbelievable what pundits can read into one's hairiest gloss.

Last week, the New York Times ran an article devoted to the shellacked preference of Callista Gingrich's platinum bob. Gingrich is wife of Newt, the Republican presidential hopeful. Bill Clinton was butchered when it was reported that four scissors in Los Angeles International Airport were closed so he could get a $200 haircut on Air Force One. John Edwards somewhat escaped that when it made news that his own haircut cost $400.

Back here, the prosecution panel's Serafin Cuevas was quickly likened to Mr. Burns, the villain in the long-running animated show "The Simpsons," with Facebook images of the lawyer thrown alongside that of the cartoon character. They both have receding hairlines. Whether the similarity extends to the antagonistic part to people's minds is, however, up for debate.

Then there's Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile whose hair, at age 88, is as raven—and, surely, not genuine—remember it as kickjet-black. He and his locks seem to defy age. Critics for Chief Justice Renato Corona who, if his gray-haze-free head (at least from our pewter) is anything to go by, is unprecedented by the same ageless feat. (His wife, Cristina, however, tells another story.)

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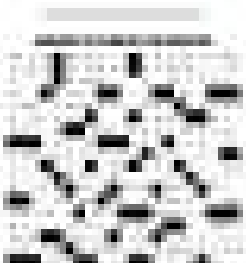

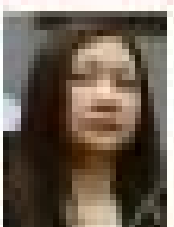

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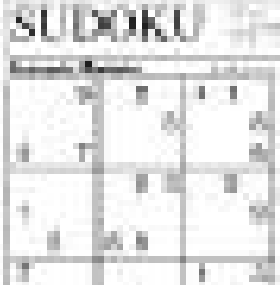
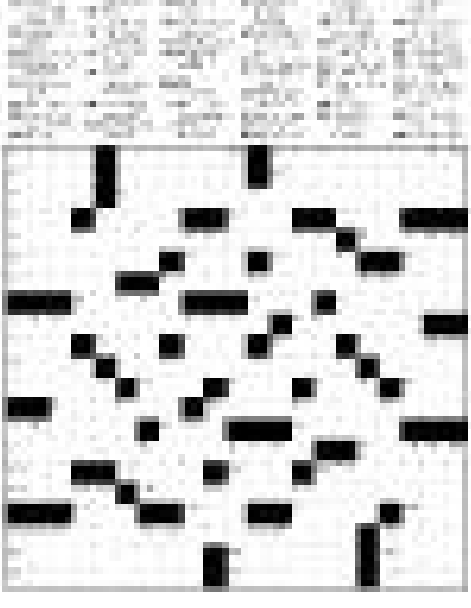
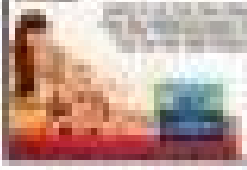


It's time to forgive an

Sociedad Española de Ben sells paella to help elderly

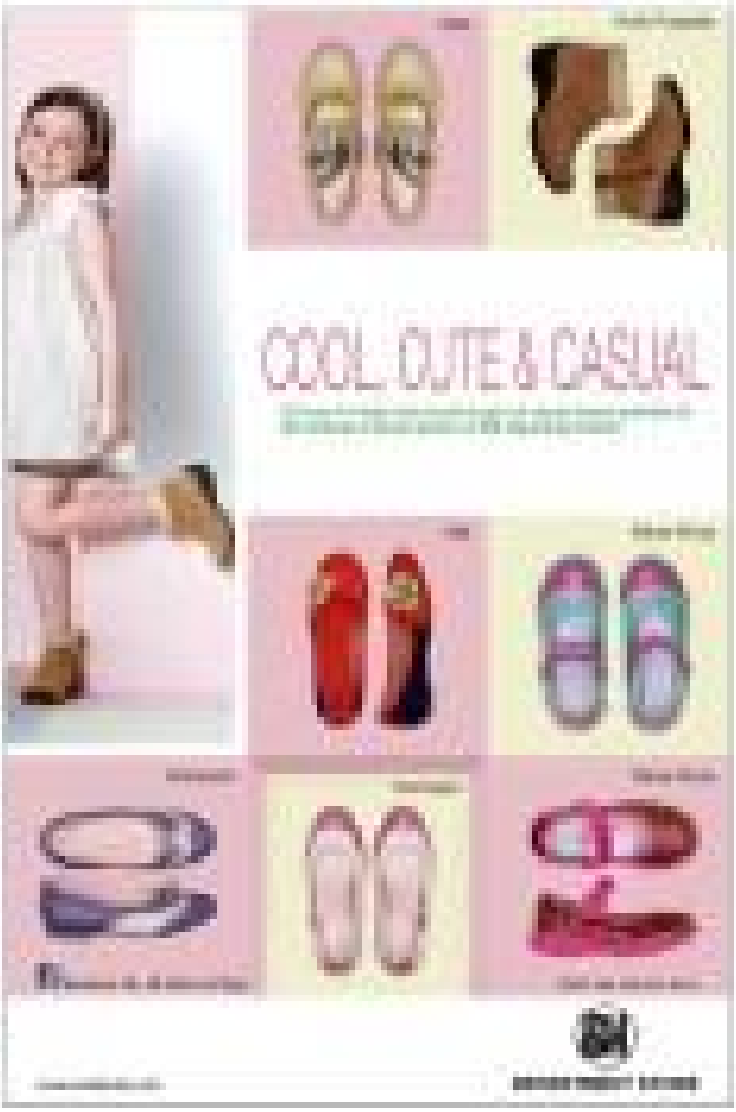


The Shrine of St. Therese in bustling Newport



...al to heal

...ufficiencia ...and youth



La Salle Class '62 Archers go for the gold

A SERIES OF activities has been lined up by the executive committee for alumni of De La Salle High School Class '62 to celebrate its 50th year.

Class '62 has produced some prominent names in industry, government and society. Some have volunteered to engage their school buddies in bonding events, starting off with a Rizk Off on the Greens, a golf tournament on Feb. 11 at Alabang Country Club.

Following that day on the turf is a run of the DLSU Dasmariñas Cavite Museum.

On Feb. 25, husbands and wives hold a welcome dinner dance at Whale Wash Village Clubhouse. It will feature memories of class reunions. The Starlite Revival band will revive memories of those glory days when students knew how to party.

For some R&R, couples will holiday in Palawan, to the underground river, now considered one of the modern-day Seven Wonders of the World. The group will stay at Miss'ool, owned by the family of Class '62 alumnus Ramon del Rosario.

CLASS '62 secure meeting at Tower Club, July 23, 2011. (Seated) Bobby de Ocampo, Joey Cuhia, Teri Villaluz; (standing) Larry Gamboa, Louie Campos, Ramon del Rosario, Joey Laurel, Tess Acosta, Lina Palmaroda, Mike Uy, Pete Uy

On March 3, homecoming day at La Salle Greenhills opens with a parade of colors. All alumni are invited to this green-letter day. The final event will be a Despedida Dinner Dance at Manila Polo Club, where all class members will receive giveaways for this once-in-a-life-time happening.

Inquiries can be directed to Tess Acosta, mobile 0917-6981233.

TOURISM Secretary Ramon Jimenez (center) meets with Latvia Consul General Robert Lim Joseph and Afro-Asian Travel president Angel Ramon Bagtas. Jimenez updated them on his tourism programs and projects, including the new slogan. Joseph and Bagtas also inform Jimenez about the developments in the projects of Tourism and Movers of the Philippines and the League of Tourism Students of the Philippines.

Health congress

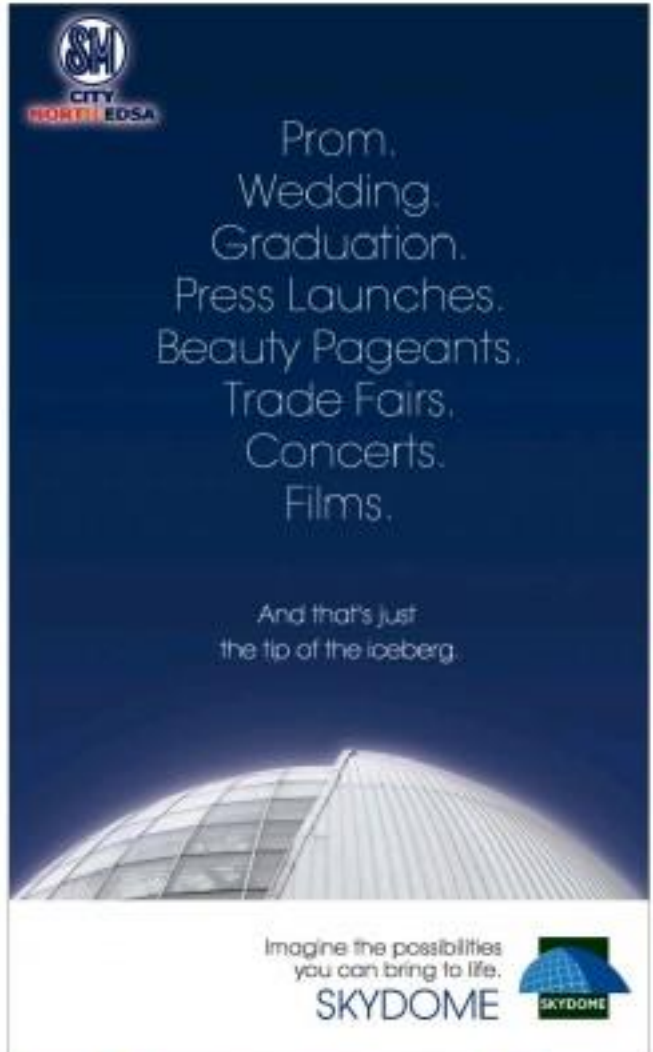
THE PHILIPPINE CONGRESS and Exhibition on Natural Health will be on March 29 and April 1, 9 a.m.–6 p.m., at the Ballroom I-III 3, Club Filipino, Greenhills, San Juan. Theme is "Healing of Mind, Body, Spirit." Topics include healing medical emergencies, prevention of chronic/degenerative diseases, wound-dogy, uses of virgin coconut oil, body manipulations and hormone optics. Conference fee is P1,500 with two lunches and four snacks, and a certificate of attendance. Organizer is the International Association of Education for World Peace. Call 09178930267.

What's Up

or 0905-7494699

PPO auditions

The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) will conduct auditions at the Cultural Center of the Philippines for Feb. 24, 1:30 p.m., assistant concertmaster, and March 25, 1 p.m., Concertino position—bass trombone. Call 8221125 or 1606-0915.



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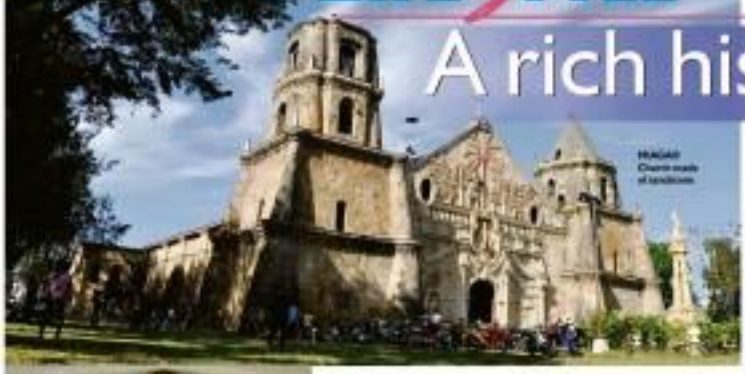
Sunday LIFESTYLE

A rich history



MIAGAO Church made of landmass

Heritage churches and stunning old houses are among the repositories of culture in this genteel province

RETABLO of Miagao Church, which was built in 1786 and declared a Unesco World Heritage site in 1993

By Irene C. Pienal

RELIGION GREATLY influenced Iloilo's culture. The key landmarks in the province are baroque churches, and each household usually has an heirloom image of Jesus, Mary or a favorite saint. Early art works are retablos and santos.

This deep-rooted faith had something to do with the "lack of social security," in the native days, says "culture connoisseur" Eugene Jumolas. As a form when life insurance policies and health-care providers are unheard of, people pray to a particular icon for a specific wish. Patron saints are believed to keep the parishioners healthy, the businesses booming, and the harvest abundant.

A church bell is a must in Iloilo. These bone-tested structures are still a social hub where families attend Mass on Sundays, and neighbors catch up for a chat. It is common to find a plaza by a church—a central area where local delicacies are sold, with benches for churchgoers who want some air.

Serious heritage conservation started six years ago in Jaro, an Ilonggo district. The group believes that to keep the culture, people must be involved. He is pushing that Iloilo heritage be taught in schools.

"Culture is experiential. Apart from the churches, we also suggest a visit to the ancestral houses and eating traditional Ilonggo food," he said. "After a long day, you won't remember the architecture much, but you will remember the black bot chocolate!"

Church route

Agustinian missionaries influenced the Hispanic architecture of the Ilonggo churches. Jumolas describes the look as "earthquake baroque"—sturdy enough to withstand shakes in the earthquake-prone province.

The churches, mostly made of sand and coral stones, are characterized by heavy

MORE P.11

ST. THOMAS of Villanueva, Miagao patron saint

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Why I love Iloilo

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CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Kansi, Kbanda ng Isda, pakyang tinggas, Pinais salad

The flavors of Iloilo

From baked goodies to the iconic "batchoy," there's much to savor here

By Arnelle S. Tayao

THEY SAY that when in Iloilo, aside from visiting the province's centuries-old churches, one must sample local cuisine. Fans of mami (stumping soup) and batchoy (broth with noodles and meat, usually topped with chicharrones) are the chief heroes of Ilonggo dishes, but if you want to take a more offbeat path, look for chef Rafael "Tibong" Jardeleza II. He'll tell you to eat authentic Ilonggo food.

Jardeleza, owner of SR. This eatery, originally the Tabac-an lunch at downtown Iloilo's Central Market (Binalo-atongpa style) let tourists interested in tasting everyday Iloilo food. It's part of his advocacy to preserve the province's culinary heritage.

There are no "set meals" or group packages, since Jardeleza prepares the menu depending on what's available on the market that day.

The group, for example, had a Pinoy Salad of seaweed, tomatoes, onions with malted egg and chicharrong dalagang dalot, salted fish baked in olive oil, pinikpikan nga pato sa tuba, duck stew-cooked in coconut-sap vinegar, in-no-uni, chicken steam-boiled inside banana-leaf packets, pakyang tinggas (local version of pakchie in dalgang charred crabs).

These were served with rubad (a beer rice topped with dalikay or dilis/IWS, and guinamos, their version of Jagoong, or a spread of banana leaves.

"These are the kinds of food you would see being cooked inside homes," said Jardeleza.

For dessert, we had sweet sticky rice dish popularly known as YSL—Yico Saint Laurent, a play on the designer's name—that caramelized sugar in jaggery with bangka and mangoes.

The meal is capped with freshly roasted coffee served de tabo—yes, in actual bi-cans. Jardeleza said it's been a longtime practice of old coffee shops in Iloilo, just be careful with the sharp edges as you sip.

Jardeleza said he has been bringing friends for over 15 years to the Central Market for lunch. He decided to open it to tourists to provide Sir Tabac an Festival, an Iloilo heritage cooking competition he spearheaded. It was first held November last year, and will be an annual contest among culinary schools, wherein students and one mentor prepare a number of traditional Ilonggo dishes.

They are judged according to the taste of their dishes, as well as the plating and presentation. Aside from the judges, they must also impress food for 200 guests who will be at the festival.

Jardeleza requires reservations for the Tabac-an lunch in the middle of lunchtime days in advance. A minimum of 15 persons must comprise the group; standard price is around P400 per head. (Call chef Rafael "Tibong" Jardeleza II at 09/7-6256993; 09/7-6256993; e-mail tabacan@jardeleza@yahoo.com.)

Hot "tsokolate"

Merienda can be had at the Iloilo Esplanade, where homemade food stalls (chocholate) is served. It is served by Lutti and Bernard Garcia, 5th-generation descendants of the Acuna-Ma Family, who still reside in the house.

There's pansit, siangge shrimp-stuffed empanada which are served on thick, piping-hot tsokolate. The cotton scarf is grown and handmade by the Garcias, and is sold for P50 each piece.

Aside from the Jalina, the cool-mix bake-a-boo and bun-ta! pastel pitcher and wooden stirrer used to mix the chocolate, respectively) are sold on the first floor of the house, together with other heritage souvenir items.

The owners said, with its waste of guava tree wood, because the aroma add extra flavor to the chocolate as it is being stirred. Five rolls of tablea are needed to fill one pot/cup/jar. It is slow-cooked for one hour and mixed with milk.

(Simple pleasures of the persons) may avail of the tour and one meals for P200 each. PLEASE! They only want to sample the chocolate. (Call 033-3383868; 033-3366073.)

Bakeries

Right beside Camilla is another house that serves a different kind of Ilonggo delicacy. It is home to Mama's Kitchen (tel. 033-337-4031; 033-3360718), a small bakery which makes several kinds of cookies. All are original creations of Maria Corona Villanueva-de Leon, who started selling them in 1985.

Her "flagship" product is the Mango Chewies, which are, as the name suggests, soft chewy cookies with mango bits. De Leon started with mangoes because they were the abundant resource in the province.

"I almost gave up," said Sir Leon, recalling the days when she came home from culinary school in the US and was still trying to come up with a recipe. "But my mother supported me all the way."

Mama's Kitchen's other flavors are Tsokolate Pinipig, Tsokolate, Tsokolate Cashew, Peanut, Cashew and Pinipig, all of which are "marvelous." Although Sir Leon only sells them at the store/bakes in their home, she said she has been receiving orders even from Metro Manila.

"Mama's Kitchen is becoming known mostly through word-of-mouth," she said. "There's no intention on her because the customers will shoulder the shipping fee."

Panaderia de Molo on Aduana de Street is another bakery one can visit. It is one of the province's oldest panaderias, run by Teresita Lumiga, it was originally opened in the 1960s by her grandmother.

All of their products are handmade, for P180, one can bring home a box with an assortment of galletas, pulya, butterscotch, sugar toast, piyaisugbo, bacapulhan.

Mediterranean fare

From the old and traditional, try something more modern for dinner, like the Mediterranean fare being served at Sibarite in SM Iloilo. Dishes are a mix of Greek, Italian and Lebanese.

The owner, Florence Yniore, an Ilonggo, was introduced to the idea by the restaurant's executive chef Mervyn Whitfield, said supervisor Karen Zamora. Sibarite' first two branches are actually in Manila—one in Bonifacio, another in Makati. They also have two branches in Iloilo City.

Bestsellers are their kebabs: one can order a platter that has chicken, fish, chicken tikka (spicier version), beef and lamb. One must also sample the Greek Salad, which has lettuce, olives, tomatoes and cheese. Zuppa, pumpkin soup, Roast Chicken, marinated in an assortment of spices and olive oil, Italian Sampler, quesadillas, beef tacos, carnitas, and Pollo Milanese, pizza topped with tomatoes, mozzarella, artichokes, bacon, mushroom, penne pasta.

Sibarite Kitchen and Market owner Mauri is at Avenger Plaza (Mall) and on Smart Street, Mall City.

MAAÑO with garlic dip

CUCHINTA

TUSKOLETI served at Camilla Bakery nga Bulo

PANADERIA de Molo products

PANADERIA de Molo products are all handmade.

CHEF Rafael "Tibong" Jardeleza II

TSILI OIL chicken steam-boiled inside banana-leaf packets

STAINOS Kebab Platter; Lamb Gyros Santorini-inspired blue-and-white interiors

MAMA Corona Villanueva-de Leon, owner and maker of Mama's Kitchen Food Products (left); Mango Chewies (above)

One-stop shop for Ilonggo food

If one wishes to sample Iloilo cuisine in a more convenient setting, head to SM Iloilo. Homegrown tenants serve some of the best food the province has to offer.

BREAKTHROUGH
Try the Sizzling Crabmeat (above) and Inihaw na Manggit.

BUCUCHO HAUS
For your pasalubong needs, they sell a variety of products aside from bucucho—pulya, bangsilog, butterscotch, toasted mamon, banana chips.

CHICKEN N' RIBS
Aside some suggest, they serve two dishes: chicken and roast pork ribs, grilled or fried, paired with java rice.

CASA ILONGGA
What started out as a kitchen house now serves a variety of local, mostly seafood, favorites on Crispy Calamares, KBL, Adobo (pigeon bean), Langka and Kabog (beans), and Pancit Molo.

TEO'S
Famous for serving an Iloilo delicacy—batchoy, locals with pork, liver and innards topped with chicharrong and garlic. If you're up for a heavier meal, try their version of Pinkang Bangus and Kare-kare.

GREEN MANGO
A Filipino restaurant which takes inspiration from the lechon of Iloilo, the province. Bestsellers are the Pork Belly and Grilled Tinuhog.

MAMS MASSAL
The popular restaurant chain famed for its tasty grilled chicken and extra-rice menu-its roots in Iloilo, which has around 12 branches all over the province.

OCEAN CITY
Bestsellers: Chopsuey, shrimp with mayonnaise, pigeq Chinese Fried Lumpia, mixed veggies with peanut sauce, Fried Fish Fillet with onion and soy sauce, Chicken and Pork Sisig (topped with egg), mushrooms, green peas, Grilled Blue Marlin basted with Mojo.

A rich history

PILLS saints mounted on the pillars of Jaro Church

from page F1

wooden doors, marble tile floors and rectangular iron windows. Buttresses provide support to the walls and insulation to keep the interiors cool. The churches also served as fortresses and evacuation sites during the war.

Among the most visited churches in Iloilo is the St. Thomas of Villanueva Parish, more known as the Miagao Church (after the town). It was built in 1786 and declared a Unesco World Heritage site in 1993. On a sunny day, the sun's semitropic church glistens against the sunlight, with the citrus blue dome as a fitting backdrop.

Molo Church, made of coral rock, has a Gothic Renaissance theme. It was the center of evacuation during World War II. There are 10 images of female saints mounted inside the church, recognizing the virtues a weaving woman.

Jaro Cathedral was named in the 1864 earthquake and was reconstructed in the '90s. Images of the 12 apostles can be found inside. Pope John Paul II declared the Nuestra Señora de la Candelaria as the patron saint on 1983. White statues of St. Peter and Paul flank the bulk, giving the church a modern accent. Across the church is a belfry.

The Dominican Church is also called "Santuyan" and was built to warn the people of pirates. Typhoon Church, established in 1592, is the site of the first Jesuit school for boys in the Philippines.

Camiña Balay nga Bato

In the quiet district of Arevalo is Camiña Balay nga Bato, an ancestral house built in 1860 by the Avanceña family who were into hablon weaving (more). Jameson said the affluence of a house-hold, at that time, was judged by the number of pillars and walls that support it. The house has 34, indicating that the residents are well-off.

The ground floor is called the *silungan* or a lodge. It was transformed into the Lola Nativa Cafe Shop, after the matriarch Nativa Avanceña, a headstrong

HUNTING Saints de la Candelaria

JARO Church's belfry

CURATOR James Mikael Amosa of Museo Iloilo

woman who refused to use her husband's last name until her death. The shop is a repository of souvenirs for sale, like coral-stone sculptures made by local artisans, hablon scarves, tsokolate-a and batirol for making hot chocolate.

Lutin Camiña, who belongs to the fifth generation, manages and lives in the house. It took her "23 years to have it lived into a functional home, describing it as a shabby "darkey ng gagamba" before the renovation. The original *sawali* ceiling, a threatening fire hazard, was replaced with pressed tin sheets. Original structures were kept, like the hardwood *encuadrado* (staircase), tall, wide windows with *ventanillas* (small windows) from, and all the six rooms.

On the second floor is an altar with antique images; a cabinet full of silverware, bonsai and decorative pottery; and a piano which was a gift to Leto Avanceña.

"We are trying to get the community involved in the heritage experience," added Camiña. When you come here, you will the *bracea* kitchen, a country bakery; a *kapi* tasting; *dot*, a new jewelry; and cuchinta. It is a place to relax where everyone participates."

(For house or open for tours, by appointment. A fee of P150 per head is charged. Call 09189433802, 033-3370986)

MIAGAO Church

HOOD Museo interior

MOLO Church

GUIMBAL Church

ALTAR with an undated, antique of the Blessed Virgin put to be dressed up (left)

HAVE a tour and native Ilonggo snack in Camiña Balay nga Bato in Arevalo district.

EUGENE Jameson

LUTIN Camiña

JARO Street in downtown Iloilo City has buildings that date back to the Spanish and American colonial periods.

MOLO Church houses female saints, to pay tribute to woman weavers.

Keeping the 'hablon' alive

Women still create the trademark elegant Ilonggo weave in some towns

BEAUTIFUL threads being woven into hablon multicolor scarves and more's ways.

By Irene C. Perez

ILOILO WAS once known as the Textile Capital of the Philippines. Ilonggos produced world-class hablon woven cloths, also referred to as *costumbre* in various colors.

The exquisite fabric made of cotton, silk, pineapple, and hemp are used for barro t saya and *barong*, and household items like blankets and bed sets.

Museo Iloilo curator James Mikael Amosa said the Ilonggo trade weaving industry early on provided livelihood to female weavers, and gave the economy a steady boost—until the Spaniards opened the ports to international trade which led to cheaper textile from Europe and Asia.

Hablon-weaving was downgraded from a sustainable cottage industry. Weavers have decreased in number, but several women still practice hablon-weaving in some towns. In Barangay Inday-an, in Miagao, a cooperative headed by Leonida Moreno makes hablon scarves, dresses, blankets upon order. They sell these items in trade fairs in Manila.

Cecilia Grace Villanueva inherited her mother's abaca-ay shop in Arevalo. (tel. 033-3310021, 033-3380713). The grandmother has stopped making the tenal herself, but has trained community girls in making quality shawls, hankies and fabrics for *barong*. Her clients include politicians and their wives who buy them for gifts.

Her "shop" is on the second level of her house. There's a no-frills work area, only a cabinet with carefully folded fabrics.

"I sell them like my mother did. P200 includes a basket of local delicacy and the famous *tablea* hot chocolate. Call 033-3360808, 033-3360870; search "Camiña Balay nga Bato in Iloilo" in Facebook.

Museo de Iloilo

Curator James Mikael Amosa took us around Museo Iloilo, a private museum with pieces donated by local collectors. Majority of the artifacts are religious art, including a wooden cross estimated to be 200 years old.

Take a look at *kalimon* pieces; wads of Mickey Mouse money in 50- and 10-centavo denominations; and ancient tourist jars. "Revolution Revolted," a photo exhibited by Kim Komenich, was on view during our recent visit.

(The museum is open Monday-Saturday, 8-5 p.m. Call 09189433802, 033-3370986)

CRAFTY MAKER Cecilia Grace Villanueva

When a buyer comes, I put it out on a long table, they choose and buy.

"I am glad people still know our products even with all the imported items from China," she said. "Unti-unahan sila (There are favorite), and women still go to our town to buy exclusive/local abaca-*barong*."

SARTORIAL scarves with ethnic patterns. Loom-weaving is considered an Ilonggo artisan skill.

MAG-ROBERT Castañeda, Florence Ko, Jun-de Leon, Baby Fuentes

WELDER ambassadors Jun-de Leon, Aimee del Rosario, Terence de Leon Gonzalez, Selene Hassell, Randy Ortiz, Ambeth Fernandez

MODELS wearing Welder watches

KIMPHA Yatco, Reina Hervia, Sally Fiorenzo, Mei Lozano

CHRIS Sunsberg, winner of a Welder watch, and Welder ambassador Selene Hassell

Time jumps to the future: Welder launches in Manila

IF TIME had a face, it would be this: a triad of synchronized dials encased in black steel, expertly crafted.

The stylish Welder watch launched recently at Salon de Sing, The Peninsula Manila. The event drew a high-profile crowd.

A fashion show of models wearing the hi-tainble-looking watches was the highlight, directed by Bobbie Carmona. Salon de Sing was transformed into a vault of the future, to showcase the cryptomachips of Welder timepieces. The setting is the year 2070 and the world is a pool of possibilities against the backdrop of industrial chic.

At the launch, Welder's brand ambassadors were introduced—accomplished individuals with a distinct sense of style and refinement.

There were "it girl" Selene Hassell, who not only is a drop-dead celeb but is also a fashion designer; makeup artist and painter Ambeth Fernandez, a magazine editor, TV host, sports enthusiast Jun-de Leon, a world-class photographer; Randy Ortiz, a foremost fashion designer; Aimee del Rosario of Team Aimee, today's sports icon; and Terence de Leon Gonzalez, host of "Project Runway Philippines," accessory designer, uganda enthusiast, mother of four and one of the pillars of the local modeling industry.

The brainchild of Italo Fontana of U-boat watch fame, Welder takes from him of science-fiction, design, and a geek's imagination—a piece of functioning art.

Marco Protacio, vice president for operations and marketing of Embrace Time Retail, an Ortiz, the brand's exclusive distributor in the Philippines, says, "Each watch represents our individual accomplishments to conquer. The name Welder represents the welding of emotions between people, the welding of time and space, and the welding of the present to the future."

"All of our collections are statement pieces. Details like interchangeable bezels, innovative dials as well as the bold colors and sturdy straps make Welder ideal for those who put a premium on timelessness and craftsmanship," says Protacio.

Welder watches have a multi-face design, with multiple clock faces within the traditional clock face. Each face can represent the day, week and year, or different time zones. The three-dimension design aims to represents the layers of time and space between the present and the year 2070.

Welder watches are available at Isabel Jewelry at Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong; 8th Diamond at Ayala North, Pasay; My Diamond at Glorietta 4, Makati; Washington at the Rose Place Mall, Makati; and Time Gate www.welder.ch.

DEE Hicolo, Marco Protacio, Sen. Flo Caparas

LENI Mauleon and Mia Parreno

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

'Fuerza Bruta' is high-energy entertainment

LIVIDO: If this city gets more exciting every day! The business, political, social and entertainment scenes are bursting with life, and it's getting difficult to keep up with the excitement. Since this is the Lifestyle section, I will not dwell on the action-packed political and business scenes but instead focus on the wonderful shows, places and achievements happening in our metropolis. Indeed, life is more thrilling than fiction!

Today is the last day of "Mamma Mia!" at the CCP. Unfortunately, my crazy schedule says I just can't fall in or arrange a visit party, just like I did for "Cats" last year. But I heard from Amary Ivillatoy's proud diarist Aella Carvallon that "Phantom of the Opera" is coming, so I will get another chance at partying with the stars.

For more kid-friendly entertainment, "The Sound of Music" in Resorts World has been extended until May. My good friend, actress Pinky Amador, will surely be very busy this summer because of her performances in the musical.

Argentine show

For the more avant garde and dynamic, just opened in "Fuerza Bruta," a sweeping, flying, pounding theatrical production in the Manila Hotel Tent until March 26. The Argentine show is excitingly avant-garde, and the best seats in the house are found by standing and walking around, interacting with the troupe.

Fuerza Bruta is Spanish for "brute force," and truly the acts are high-energy, including scantily-clad sexy as hell circuit

FUERZA /C2

THE CAKE Club and Diamond Hotel Team

PHILIPPINE Volcanoes' Kenneth Brown, John Lenix, Mick Perry and Darren Sweet

CAST and crew of this year's most out-of-this-world show, "Fuerza Bruta"

THE CAKE Club executive pastry Chef Daniel Buck (center) with Sea Princess and owner Cecile Ang

GEOFF Eigenmann and Carla Abellana

GUEST relationship Timothy Burton and his special Chanel No. 5 creation

RYAN Eigenmann with Carla Bordallo

DAVID Cenizal and Sofitel PR manager Cristina dela Cuzman

SUMMIT Publishing's Marcia Stow and husband Andrej Wroblewski

'Fuerza Bruta' is high-energy...

AMAZING act of "Fuerza Bruta"

As our gaze fell on a giant treadmill, dancers bounding through a series of moving walls, tumbling performers suspended in mid-air, and, best of all, beautiful dancers swimming in a clear pool suspended overhead. The production is brought to Manila by Hoopla Inc., the same group that brought in Cirque du Soleil's "Kooza."

My hubby Dennis and I were invited to the premiere on Valentine's Day. We didn't really know what to expect but the idea of a novel experience was exciting. Arriving at the Manila Hotel Tent, we entered and marvelled at the lounge area ex-tented by Carlo Calma. Past the lounge, behind a black curtain was a 360-degree interactive theatrical experience.

This is the sort of show where the audience can define the experience. The more energy from the spectators, dancing, spinning, dancing, touching — then the performers up their levels, too. Our show got progressively more hyper as the initial shock wore off and we understood the interactivity of the entire performance. A Latino dancer literally breathed in Anne Robles' and then exhaled a confluent line into his head and our same school of comfort.

My favorite part would be the amazing performance in the overhead pool, where the contortionist cast breaks free from theatrical convention.

"Fuerza Bruta" has truly stunned audiences around the world; for tickets and inquiries, call 3281111, or visit www.hoopla.ph. Tickets are also on sale at the Manila Hotel concierge.

The Manila Hotel and Fox International Channels are the official sponsors of "Fuerza Bruta" in the Philippines. The Manila Hotel is also the official hotel and residence of the "Fuerza Bruta" cast.

"FUERZA Bruta" is a force to be reckoned with.

SEA PRINCESS and hubby Dennis on unconventional Valentine's date

The Argentine circus includes a man running at full throttle on a giant treadmill and beautiful dancers swimming on a clear pool suspended overhead

BRUTAL, beautiful woman captivates us all with their performance on a floating puddle.

ARCHITECT Carlo Calma and Chris Bordallo with friends

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim

BIKRAM yoga practitioners Tessa Valdes, Mel Tiytan and Joyce Mukkattil

Buddha-Bar

After the show, we group-checked out the newly opened Buddha-Bar (see www.buddhabarmanila.com) at Pirat Place along Roxas Boulevard, Makati City. Boasting its signature lively, exotic and mesmerizing lounge music, Buddha-Bar has just raised the bar in dining and entertainment in the country.

The Asian fusion menu is quite delicious, and, better still, not too expensive. The three-level complex has a chic, semi-covered, terrace deck framing a shallow pool. This is the perfect place for a late night out and a morning after-work, with the nearby bar serving a wide range of cocktails.

Buddha-Bar was brought to by Pirat Development, a subsidiary of the ABS Group, which developed the Dasi-class residential condo tower, Strat-land Residences. The managers are all from Paris, where the original Buddha-Bar is located.

Cake Club

For those with a sweet tooth and a keen eye for fancy deli-

IMPERIAL Residence guests Pedo Ang, Mia Borromeo, Tina Monzon Jacinto and Rupert Jacinto

cious pastries, check out The Cake Club. Located at Rockwell-Edsa Extension in Brookstone Global City, the new store features top-up ice creams and cream-of-the-crop cakes. The cozy and sophisticated interiors are a match with those of mother company Diamond Hotel, so we can expect the same five-star dining experience in a more relaxed setting.

The Cake Club offers like-minded Hotel's best-selling cakes, pastries and an a la carte menu selection. Daniel Buck, the executive pastry chef of the Diamond Hotel, has

Join us this summer and have fun... the McDonald's Kiddie Crew way!

Registration is ongoing until April 30, 2012. Workshop takes place within March 26 to May 25, 2012.

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Week 3: April 16-20
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Week 6: May 7-11
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INEMO Cinco Go

ROVILSON Fernandez and Aiko Olobia

TYNETTE de Leon-Gonzales, Randy Ortiz and JC Buenida

CHNS Barbara, Cheryl Tio and Fred Salvador

YMA Airways general manager Sam Chopkinkiat, Priyanshi Chopkinkiat, Sultan DOSM Chanda Gurung and Mark Campbell

'Fuerza Bruta' . . .

From page 80

created mouth-watering cakes and pies with fresh fruits and nuts.

As the intimate opening, Cebu Club owner Cecile Ang told me how excited she is about this place because it also serves the award-winning chocolate brand from Alokasi, Japan. Super Chocolatero, in its tie-along with Hediard Tea and Bidorgue Coffee. Both latter two French brands are internationally renowned for their distinct flavors and quality. The Cebu Club is in the newest area of Ilotic High Tower, the owners popularized by Jumbo Juice.

BUENA-SAR Manila is now open.

Imperial Residence

For the ultimate in luxurious lifestyle, our city now has the Imperial Residence at Rolled Philippine Plaza (www.rolled.com). The Imperial Residence is actually a collection of five distinct suites covering a total of 575 square meters, designed by the world-renowned Spiti Design Studio of Japan.

The cyclone de la crème is The Imperial Suite, which boasts elegant living spaces, state of the art creature comforts and unrivaled views of Manila Bay. The Suite has its own kitchen, and the Rolled chefs stand it to prepare a wide array of pastries, chocolates, Petits and other decadent treats.

The launch of Imperial Residence was pure magic. Mindorgie Timothy Barnes whipped up cocktails of the night he called Chanel No. 5, Harpie and singer Noelle Encandela regaled the crowd. It all felt so indulgent.

Goran Aleks, general manager of Rolled Philippine Plaza, told me "There is nothing like The Imperial Residences. These suites have housed some of the world's most illustrious personalities and I see no reason why this will not be the future."

Follow Dean on Twitter @travelsofdean, or e-mail her at sugarbeans@inquirer.com.ph

CONGRESS Joseph Ruiz and Shirley Dayrunnel

CHITCHAT Sabrepetra, Sultan DPI Goran Aleks and Anna Sabrepetra

Do you know your

IF YOU'RE reading this, it's likely that you or someone you care about is diabetic. The figures are truly depressing. According to the American Diabetes Association, 17 million people had diabetes in the year 2000. Of these, 11.1 million were diagnosed. That means that a staggering 5.9 million are unaffected/diagnosed, are undiagnosed and unaware that they have this life-threatening condition. Diabetes is a serious, chronic, incurable and although it need inheritance, the numbers are staggering.

Through the years, various herbal medicines have been discovered to regulate the blood sugar level of diabetic patients. One of the most successful was developed through the Ayurvedic medicine system, a kind of treatment that has been practiced in India for more than 5,000 years. Today, Filipinos around the country are discovering the benefits of Ayurveda through an herbal supplement enriched with essential herbs. Published clinical studies have proven that the 9 herbs of Gogen Diabetes helps control diabetes and prevents long-term complications through its anti-diabetic, anti-inflammatory and anti-oxidant properties. The herb **Azadirachta indica** contains anti-inflammatory, anti-bacterial and anti-hyperglycaemic properties. **Trigonella foenum graecum** is an anti-hyperglycemic and anti-inflammatory herb which prevents complications of diabetes and liver disorders. **Curcuma longa** works as a powerful blood purifier. **Phyllanthus emblica** is a rich source of Vitamin C. This herb is known to support blood vessels, nerves and relieve muscle/blood circulation. **Terminalia chebula** is another treatment for diabetic ulcers and gangrenous conditions while **Terminalia bellerica** provides symptomatic relief of excessive thirst. **Syzygium cumini** is good for excessive urine and disorders affecting the liver. It also alleviates infections associated with chronic diabetes. **Tribulus terrestris** is a potent, natural aphrodisiac tonic and stimulant that helps improve diabetes induced sexual dysfunctions. And lastly, **Boerhavia aquatica** is used for the treatment of kidney-associated diseases.

Gogen Gogen Diabetes is a potent dietary supplement and can be taken as an adjunct to prescribed medications for a more effective management and control of diabetes. Gogen Gogen is available in all major drugstores nationwide. For more information visit www.dosanbio.com

Cebu bids farewell to French Ambassador Thierry Borja de Mozota

IT WILL an "exodus" for Michel Glouiller on his birthday at the family-owned Gourmet restaurant in Banilad. Leaving only Amparo to Glouiller, who is the baker of the place, made sure the menu and service were special.

Dedications were led by those son Michael Glouiller, who is now based in California, and Michel's lovely sisters—Marguerite Glouiller and Angie L. Martinez with her son Mickey Paulson who was born on holiday.

Cocktails and jazz plus were served at the Top Room, where a surprise performance took place. Manos Polo Plaza Hotel general manager Hans Rusel and his wife Bernadette's sister, and so they sent birthday greetings by way of a musical group from the hotel.

Led by resident manager Julie Major, food and beverage director Markus Wagenleitner and executive chef Lubo Bognova, they danced into the hall singing "The Shadow of Your Smile." Followed by "Besame Mucho" in spirited Spanish. They presented a cake whose candles Michel blew off, and they ended singing as they sang "Quiron, Quiron, Quiron."

Among those present were Johnny and Anna Marie Ivan Lhuillier, Rosebud Tolia, Libo and Antonio Amarado, Al Janice Francisco, director Nestle Thevenin and his wife Hannelyn Lange and son Edward, Myra Adad, Stevie Mendiverna, Carmen Campbell, Lydia Sponza and Franz Entrebillon.

Next event at the Gouirman had Michel Lhuillier in his role as Honorary Consul of France, hosting with Amparito a farewell party for French Ambassador Thierry Borja de Mozota. He will soon conclude his tour of duty in the Philippines, a posting he has enjoyed immensely.

Ambassador Borja de Mozota has made 18 visits to Cebu, each of them a memorable occasion. "Thank you so much for your hospitality," he told Michel and Amparito, adding that he has tried to visit as many provinces as he could.

"I call my colleagues Manila is not the Philippines," he said. "There is so much to see, so much to love, so much to experience, and so much to treasure in my memory."

In response, Michel also thanked the ambassador for all the cooperation, especially in establishing Alliance Française de Cebu. "You are the best Ambassador of France we ever had," said Michel, raising his glass. "And you are the best Consul of France Cebu ever had," someone said as a reminder.

It was quite a lively party with numerous guests. Pre-dinner cocktails were served at the Top Room, with everyone giving no preference to the home-made pate de foie gras and croutons, the array of cheeses, and the marinated salmon.

FRENCH Ambassador Thierry Borja de Mozota with Amparito and Michel Lhuillier, Honorary Consul of France in the Visayas

Dishes followed at the main area, with a carving station for the prime rib eye. "Are you losing up for seconds of it?" someone asked me. "Yes, for the spinach," I answered. "It's all about how it has been harvested and sprinkled with garlic," said Myrna Rodriguez, wisely.

Janice Picornell

At La Vista

Next evening, Michel and Amparito hosted an intimate dinner for Ambassador Borja de Mozota at La Vista, their hilltop residence in Maria Luisa Estate Park. Guests also, and the invitations, and that can be elegance of the first course when cheese tomatoes is based by the Lhuillier.

Chilled Dom Perignon from magnums was served the moment one stepped into the garden, which commands a scenic view of Cebu and nearby isles. The ambassador was one of the first to arrive, with Cecile Sinchiet, followed by Lucio and Christine Thevenin, Marguerite Lhuillier and Charles Lhuillier. Michel and Amparito stolen son.

The champagne flutes merrily clinked upon the arrival of Cebu Gov. Gwendolyn Garcia, accompanied by Carlos and Mariquita Yenog.

Dinner was served in the formal dining room. Michel and Amparito were complimented for the excellent menu, impeccably served, and the table's décor. There were small vases holding fragrant white lilies and blue hortensias, interspersed with antique crystal candelabras which reflected myriad flames from candles that flickered in the cool evening breeze.

Everyone greeted Hannelyn Thevenin a very happy birthday as the strains of midnight. "Let's celebrate," said Margie Lhuillier, giving a list of possible places where to continue the party.

French performing artists

Two weeks later, two French events livened up the cultural and social calendar. French pianist Marie Vermeulin came to perform the evening of Feb. 13 at a recital held in the activity area of Ayala Center Cebu. Arrangements were done by Alliance Française de Cebu.

On Feb. 15, the French Navy's frigate "Vendemiaire" came to the International port of Cebu. In a commanding officer, Commander Jean Christophe Oliveau, hosted a reception on board. The invitations said smart-chic, casual, and

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The SM Store in Olongapo's blue store front gives a warm welcome to customers, leading them to the store's upscale interiors and great merchandise mix.

Olongapo City Mayor James Gordon (3RD from right), Congresswoman Milagros Magsaysay (2nd from left), and Zambales Vice Governor Ramon Lesaca II (right) share honors during the ribbon-cutting ceremony of the SM Department Store in Olongapo. Mrs. Felicidad Sy, SM Prime Holdings President Hans T. Sy, SM Department Store President Jorge T. Mendiola, Managing Director Celso Isorena Cuelio, and Olongapo City first Anna Marie Gordon joined them.

THE SM STORE BRINGS GREAT SHOPPING TO OLONGAPO

Residents of Olongapo, as well as nearby cities and towns of Zambales can now enjoy ever-step shopping excitement closer to home with the opening of the new SM Store at SM City Olongapo.

The 11, 414 square meter three-level store is the 42nd branch in the SM store chain that has become part of the lives of millions of Filipinos for more than 30 years. Combining great design and great retail, the new store exudes a contemporary and upscale look with the mix of trendy, updated, and vibrant colors, and sleek modern lines.

A new SM signage at the façade gives shoppers a grand welcome leading them to a sophisticated and upscale store. Navigating around the store is made simple as grand staircases near the entrance display lead customers to areas where they want to shop. Clean lines and the specialty lighting used to highlight merchandise display, keep the store's overall design concept simple and focused on what shoppers really want – stylish fashion at affordable prices.

The store's first level showcases the latest trends in clothes and accessories for men and men, as well as its stationery department. Wall frames and display panels in neutral tones and patterns highlight the name, while sculpted bones of blue, gray, nickel with a surprising splash of orange and green give a sophisticated edge to the space.

There is also much to discover at the Beauty section at the same level, where black and white wallpaper in floral designs gives the place an understated elegance. Bills Payment, Currency Exchange, BDO Remit, Cliff Registry and other services that go beyond shopping can also be found at this level.

Stylish clothes and accessories for Ladies as well as fashion footwear shoes and bags are beautifully showcased on the Second Level, which features a play on summer colors like coral, orange, cool turquoise, black and white floral wallpapers in the Ladies section, as well as trendy colored wall frames and display panels and subdued gray and light blue shades at the Men's shoes department give this level a multicolored look.

At the Third Level, one can find great buys for the Home, as well as clothes and toys for Kids and Infants. Neutral tones highlight the home section, while a mix of vibrant colors and printed shades add a playful tone to the kids section.

Olongapo residents will also be delighted that the SM Store's service go beyond shopping. They can pay their bills, exchange foreign currency, avail of BDO Remit services while shopping, and also enjoy the convenience of a Cliff Registry in the store.

Shopping is definitely fun at SM Olongapo. From P1,000 minimum purchase at the store until March 11, 2012 entitles one to a raffle coupon and P3,000 worth of shopping rewards. There will be three winners every day in this exciting draw, so the more the shop, the more you have a chance to winning some shopping money.

OPENING DAY AT SM STORE OLONGAPO

Live mannequins gave shoppers a preview of SM's Summer Collection during the opening day.

The first wave of shoppers pack the SM Store in Olongapo.

WHAT'S IN STORE

It's an endless summer at the Coco Cabana section of the Ladies Wear Department.

Trendy accessories at the Ladies Accessories Department.

The iconic Parisian shoe brand comes to Olongapo at the Ladies Shoes Department.

We know Beauty at the SM Department Store.

The Men's Wear Department.

Cool accessories and elegant graphic displays at the Men's Accessories Department.

Luxe linens at the Homeworld Department.

Stylish clothes for kids at the Children's Wear Department.

Services that go beyond shopping at the SM Olongapo Store: Bills Payment, Currency Exchange and BDO Remit all in one stop.

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Ayala Land breaks barriers, goes beyond norms to provide sustainable communities

All Ayala Land projects are not developed in isolation. Each location – across the five brands – has been chosen carefully and is built within or near mixed-use developments, to allow the community to be connected to the vibrant local economies.

By Theresa S. Samaniego

Bobby D. Ilo (2nd from left), Ayala Land SVP and Residential Business Group Head with Ayala Land President Christopher B. Aboitiz, Ayala Land Premier Group Head Jose Jose C. Ingco, Avida President Ricky M. Cano and Amaia Land President Robert G. Lao

THE SUSTAINABILITY of a structure can be judged in so many ways.

Often, it is measured through its economic value or the profit it generates; the integrity of the physical structure of a building that ensures safety and security of users; and the green initiatives maximized by the developer to protect the environment—five so-called triple bottomline.

But perhaps, the truest and best measure of sustainability is ultimately, the "impact"—on the ability of a single structure to generate a cycle of sound and economic benefits that can freely flow across all sectors; improving individual lives and at the same time, elevating communities to thrive.

And this is exactly where leading property developer Ayala Land Inc. wishes its own sustainability in the Philippine property sector. Not only does it ensure that the benefits of putting up sustainable developments are felt across all segments, but it also allows a huge chunk of the land market to actively enjoy and live in them.

"Part of being sustainable is sound or sustained inclusiveness. We believe that every Filipino deserves a quality home," said Bobby Ilo, Ayala Land Executive Vice President and Residential Business Group Head.

"What we have done over the last few to six years is to reach out to more Filipinos by introducing new brands that cater to new segments of the market, introduce new price points as well as expand in new locations," Ilo said.

Diversified brands

Ayala Land currently has in its portfolio five residential brands namely Ayala Land Premier, Alveo Land, Avida Land, Amaia Land and BellaVita—each catering to a specific market, but all carrying the company's DNA of sustainability, as well as the same tradition and expertise that the Ayala group has been known for.

This only means that the environmental obstacles, the land practices that will ensure the longevity of the structures and even the entitlements in the planning and development that goes into each project, will be applied to all the five brands and will be carried over to the next decades as Ayala Land strives to cover more cities and towns.

Ilo admitted that it was wise to look at the company's history, Ayala Land has traditionally been associated with high end developments.

"But that has changed. If you look at the mix of our portfolio, it is now brand-based and has a fairly wide range," Ilo noted, referring to the evolution of projects that cater to the low and mid-market segments.

Similar to note too, that Ayala Land has also undoubtedly increased its geographical footprint, with numerous developments now scattered across the country.

Strategic, cohesive developments

With increased presence, Ayala Land was able to capture a significant share of the market across varying socio-economic structures.

Such is a proof that the provision of sustainability across all its five residential brands is not a hollow one, nor is it a mere marketing tool to convince buyers. Choosing an area's most ideal address that Ayala Land makes good of its sustainability mantra of "ensuring that one's business is viable without harming the environment and ensuring that people and communities achieve their full potential while at the same time keeping a healthy financial bottomline."

Thus, buyers can be assured that the property or condominium unit that they acquire would guarantee sustainable living conditions, regardless which brand they go for.

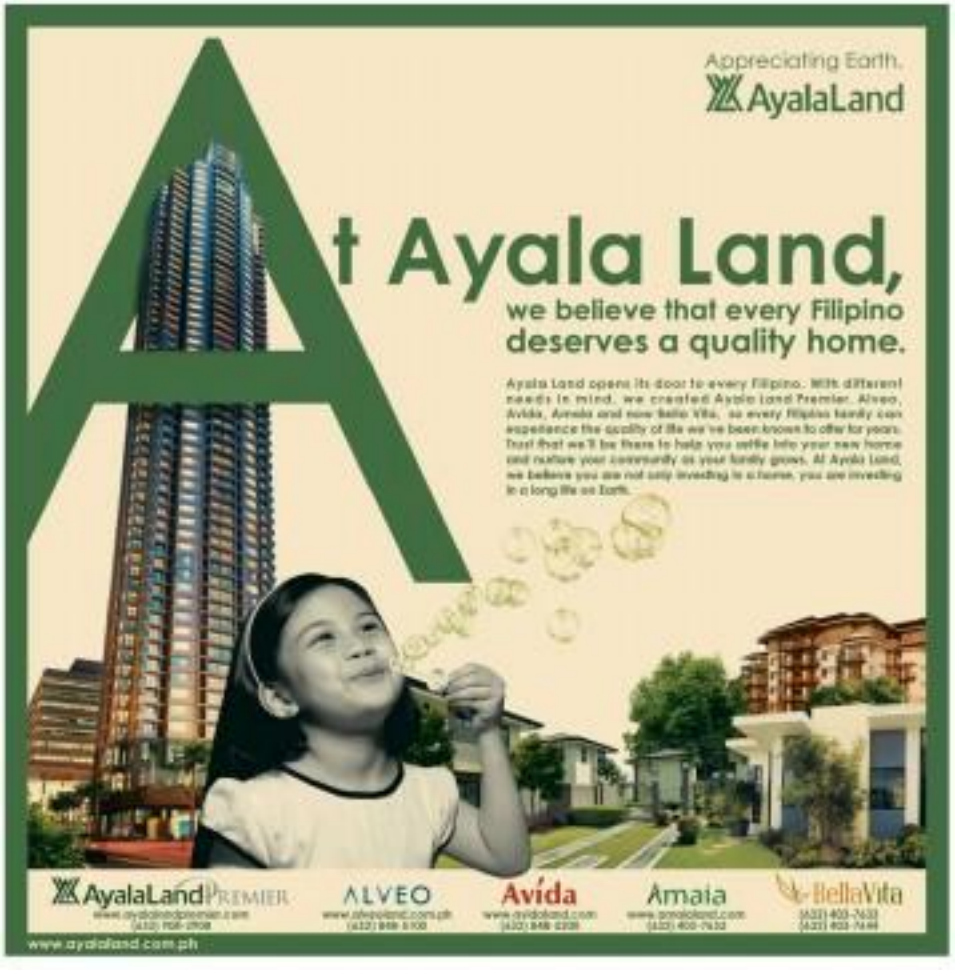
After all, all Ayala Land projects are not developed in isolation. Rather, each location—across the five brands—has been chosen carefully and is built within or near mixed-use developments, to allow the community to be connected to the vibrant local economies.

Most of Ayala Land's developments are mixed-use—it is not solely for residential. Typically, a project comes with other uses like retail, office and even hotels. What happens is that the users are not just limited to the homebuyers, but it actually serves the entire community, which reportedly raises the quality of life in the area," Ilo explained.

Each property is likewise planned, designed and built by an Ayala Land subsidiary, the Makati Development Corp. (MDC), according to the highest standards and will later on be managed by another Ayala Land subsidiary, Ayala Property Management Corp. (APMC), to provide secure and worry-free living with the least impact on the environment.

To know which would best suit your needs and preferences, here is a primer on each of the five residential brands of Ayala Land, which could not only of their respective developments and target markets, but also of their individual contributions to Ayala Land's thrust for sustainability and nation building.

More inside stories



Ayala Land Premier: Leading the pack towards sustainable development

So the trend is more eco-friendly options. Ayala Land Premier caters to the discerning affluent, who seek for developments that provide cosy lifestyles and carry a prime address. This brand, which has been regarded as the industry's pioneer in providing a distinctive living experience, has established a strong foothold in the market, catering to the refined tastes of the well-heeled society.

The price range? One-bedroom condo units start at P10 million and step up all the way up to P40 million for its penthouse units. On the other hand, residential lot sizes range from 600 square meters to 1,400 square meters.

But the most remarkable outcome to offer-thought on any Ayala Land Premier project exudes the prestige of the Ayala brand, choice location and unrivaled value appreciation. And this is evident in its existing projects, which include Park Terraces in Makati City, Eton Emerald at the Business District City, Ayala Medgrocare Hospital in Silang, Cavite, Ayala Greenfield Estates, Southwoods and Eton in Laguna, and Arcaya Cove in Bohol, among others.

Ayala Land Premier Head Jose Jose Jugo explained that the strength of this brand comes largely from its "heritage and pedigree," as people have come clearly now the trend Ayala residential developments – the blend of which go back to the 1950s – have held their ground over time.

"Ayala Land Premier does not intend to overly promote because people have seen what we've been, generations over. It's common knowledge in the market that Ayala Land Premier products are about quality," Jugo said.

Equally integral to the brand's success, according to Jugo, is its keen focus on sustainability in its projects.

"Sustainability has become a way of life for this generation. It is not a fad. It is a concern this generation has because as a generation, we know that we have the ability to make things uncomfortable. And we understand that we and our children will still be around when the consequences to that are felt," he explained.

Much of Ayala Westgrove Heights' sprawling open spaces and rolling terrain remain in its natural state.

One Serendra offers a gracious suburban lifestyle within the conveniences of Bonifacio Global City

Jugo claimed that Ayala Land Premier projects have created a strong but high impact as well as long-term benefits to surrounding communities.

"Because we have grown together, and technology has made the world a much smaller place over the past decades, much more we make or pray why developers in fell much more now by surrounding communities. While we cannot control many factors that magnify our efforts to communities for sustainable jobs, we say control how we affect those communities," Jugo explained.

But through sustainability, Ayala Land Premier has always shown to attract society positively.

"We believe sustainability goes much deeper than green developments. To us, it stands for developing land responsibly – ensure all needs it is about finding engaged into community issues that could be affected as developers. It is about doing what is right, and being environmental is one part of that. But all. This is nothing new to Ayala Land Premier. In different stages and times, sustainability has always been in our system," he further stressed.

"The proven that Ayala Land Premier developments can command, and that to be led more attitude to innovate and evolve. But in the end, "environmental sustainability does not have to be highly-technological nor expensive," Jugo said.

For instance, Jugo cited as an example the newer Ayala Land Premier subdivisions, which make use of dual water piping which main private lot. Dual water line is dedicated to fresh water for human consumption, while another water line is dedicated to recycled water for non-consumption like washing cars and gardening. Proven rainwater conservation allow rainwater to seep underground and recharge the land's aquifer, he explained.

In the residential buildings, Jugo said a basic sustainable consideration would be natural ventilation.

"With simple design elements in place, passive cooling is possible, and that brings down power consumption considerably. Practical design also allows us to use natural illumination which also reduces the need for electricity. Allies applied to entire buildings, natural ventilation and illumination bring down overall costs to maintain the structure," Jugo added.

Experience distinctive living amidst the grandeur of nature at Ayala Greenfield Estates

Alveo Land: An urban achiever's sustainable haven

Alveo Land Corp. was born in 2002 in response to an expanding market of the so-called "upwarding middle urban customers." These are the successful individuals who are similarly looking for upscale, innovative and sustainable developments, but at friendlier prices ranging anywhere between P3 million and P15 million.

Since 2002, Alveo Land has built subdivisions, townhouses and condominiums in key areas across the country, which included BGC projects Tara Serendra and High Street South; The Commons Ayala Avenue, The Calderon Legaspi Village, Gamba, The Landia, and Kasara Tower in Makati, Fairmile Villas in Quezon City; Amalfi Place in Pasig; Celadon Park and Celadon Residences in Manila; Verdana Homes Dasmari and Mamplasan in Binan, Toreta and Verano in NUVALI, Laguna; Marquee Residences in Pampanga; Kasa Lucina in Tagaytay; Solaire Park and Solaire in Cebu; and Alveo Residences in Davao.

And now after 10 years of successfully delivering quality houses and units in urban settlements, there seems to be no signs of slowing down for this brand. As Alveo Land President Robert Lee had put it, Alveo will continue to provide buyers for the they deserve of friendly rates, but without compromising on safety and integrity, most importantly.

So what makes an Alveo development stand a good buy? The list is practically endless.

For one, its strategic and centrally-located Alveo developments afford homeowners easy access to various urban conveniences, hotspots and other lifestyle destinations.

Also, with "hyper-amenitized" developments, Alveo residents are assured that everything that they need would be provided. But more importantly, these amenities—which include park ecosystems and fitness hubs, among others—become private and encourage more community interaction. How alluring for a town habitat array of ease-by the well being of its residents.

Lee explained that community interaction is made possible through the so-called "segregation points" or pocket spaces where families and neighbors can get together—giving a condominium unit owner that feeling of living in a "house in lot" within a subdivision.

Examples of these segregation points include the central pools and heated—Jacuzzi at Kasa Lucina; the leisure pools at Solaire; the glorious outer features at Tara Serendra; Verano's 3-hectare Central Park Complex; and the Ayala Zone at Verano in NUVALI that showcase cool free-form pools and water play facilities.

And since sustainability is all about nurturing people, Alveo further incorporated in some of its developments specific areas where residents cannot only invest but passers their unique hobbies and talents as well. Among the themed function and convergence areas included Verano's E-Zone and Be Zone, the Culinary Studio in The Marbella at Tara Serendra and the Enterprise Lounge at Kasara Tower, Lee said.

"At Tara Serendra, we included amenities like badminton and basketball courts and pools that are centrally located only to subdivisions. This way, people who are used to living in houses wouldn't find it hard to adjust," Lee noted. "Green roofs are also becoming a standard for most developments, apart from the use of the more cost-effective LED lights. Tara Serendra also boasts of 60 percent open space and protects the biggest green roof in the Philippines."

The iconic Earth Hill Clubhouse at Treveia NUVALI hosts edgy modern architecture and family-friendly community amenities with sustainable features, like solar-sensitized air-conditioning and shed-gabling

Alveo also targets to lessen the carbon footprint by including what areas in most of its developments, there encouraging soil covers to walk instead of drive. In terms of ventilation, transparent are applied across all segments.

Lee further noted that Alveo should be recommended for "the use of transparency, as these do not come in cheap.

"Pathways with townways are not common in condos. What people don't realize is that they're expensive to include so a project because that will be equivalent to an entire unit that developers have to forgo. But Viveo are among the things that Alveo is willing to sacrifice for the living experience of the residents," he added.

Lee stressed that all these developments are aligned with the Ayala Land brand for sustainability which can easily be achieved with proper and meticulous planning – from the product features, target market, value of the product and most importantly, the sustainability features. And APMI, will always be there to ensure that Alveo developments will continue to deliver the so.

Residents can take pleasure in lush serene settings of Kasa Lucina's exclusive outdoor amenities, captivating leisure pools and sprawling lawnscape

Alveo Land's Verano in NUVALI includes a vibrant offering of five multi-cuisine zones where residents can swim, romp, connect, play and rejuvenate within their own community

Kasa Lucina will feature a quaint retail strip and leisure zone

Avida Land: Quality homes for the hardworking middle class Filipinos

To be able to own a entire unit, Ayala Land had put up Avida Land in 1998 in order to the start-up families from middle class segment, which offered the hardworking Pinoy to have a taste of what quality living means. And of course, at it's affordable rates, ranging anywhere between P1.3 million and P6 million.

Avida Land, according to its president Christopher B. Waghorn, was Ayala Land's first foray into the affordable market segments, and now the first brand that tried to achieve "market-to-homeowner", which simply means allowing more people to afford quality houses and units in most places across the country.

Avida, Waghorn added, is the answer to the middle-class Filipino families' aspirations to own their first house that is situated in a peaceful and orderly neighborhood. Filipinos, after all, deserve quality development, and Ayala Land would like "to be game changers and to elevate the standard of living for middle class Filipinos through Avida."

What started as a need to provide housing for the employees and junior executives of the Laguna Technopark, Avida Land has now expanded to 14 locations with 20 projects across the country. Its presence is expected to subsidy yet again this year, with 18 new projects to be launched for 2012 alone, to mean one location—to more first will allow more people to experience what it is like to live in a comfortable community such as Avida.

Such projects launched since 2010 are Avida Towers Cebu, Mahang and 9th Avenue in Bonifacio Global City; Avida Village in Iloilo and NUVALI. Avida Cebu, NUVALI, "aside in 2011, Avida launched more projects in Bonifacio Global City (GBC 32nd and Uptown Tower), Avida Village Iloilo Square in Negros, Avida Settings Carmelray, Avida Towers Centera Mandaluyong, Avida Towers Prime Taft, Avida Parkway Settings in NUVALI, Cerdo in Tower in Cagayan de Oro, and Avida Stonehaven in Laguna Technopark. "It's a really rapid pace - we are expanding to new geographic markets. We are now in Cebu, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and in a couple of months, we will be in Bulacan, Tagaytay, Valenzuela, and Davao. The strategy now really is to buy new territories," Waghorn disclosed.

But since affordability is key to this particular brand, Waghorn added that each Avida development now to go through careful planning to be able to come up with functional and practical features, without sacrificing the sustainability of the developments. This is why all Avida developments are usually priced at a premium over competitors.

"It's right sizing the amenities and making sure every aspect or area is maximized. Meanwhile, our landscape consultants make sure that the plants that we put are indigenous to the area. Also, thoughtful planning is overdone in terms of ventilation orientation to make sure it's naturally ventilated and illuminated," Waghorn explained.

Avida Towers Centera boasts of a unique in-city living, with a built-in retail area that includes shopping, dining and service establishments

To ensure affordable, quality living, Ayala Land developments ensure that it would adhere to what it dubbed as the "five must haves" for every condominium and house and lot project:

• Accessible locations. It is imperative for an Avida development to be in a strategic location, meaning it should be near to hospitals, schools, business districts, churches and other retail-based spaces, and easily accessible via public transport, to reduce the use of cars, and consequently, various budgets.

• Designs. Beyond the basic unique features and amenities, Avida Land offers a wide selection of lot sizes and house design that will fit your needs. Houses and condo units are designed to allow natural illumination and ventilation that can reduce energy consumption. At the same time, Avida developments offer more open spaces for kid's play, landscaping and activity areas.

• Quality. Buyers are assured of high quality and durable structures as well as reliable, on-time delivery. Avida Land has created a warranty unit for quick studies to sunbeam needs and has also ensured the presence of strong village management to ensure proper maintenance and upkeep of all utilities and amenities.

• Buying experience. Avida Land offers a hassle free buying experience with its different, well-planned schemes fit for any budget. It was also the first developer to offer leasing and property management in the middle income segment.

• Living experience. All developments promote a closely-knit neighborhood within a gated community that is clean, well-maintained, safe and peaceful, with 24/7 security. Buyers will continue to enjoy hassle-free amenities even long after the houses and units have been turned over, owing to the good maintenance of APMC.

"When we plan we really make it appropriate for the site, the local terrain, the local condition down to what's appropriate for the context of a particular community. It's all of these little details that make every Avida development sustainable," Magbuos explained, further adding that all these allow Avida to maintain a strong foundation for village management that promotes peace, order and harmony.

Avida Settings NUVALI features the green ribbon layout, giving residents an immediate access to the open space surrounding their homes.

Amaia Land: Ideal for first-time home buyers

A truly viable solution for behind the establishment of Amaia Land.

Offering homes and condo units at more even affordable rates of P600,000 to P1.2 million, Ayala Land has showed that indeed, it is committed to raising the living standards of the majority of working class Filipinos, more than working abroad (overseas Filipino workers). Envisioned at first-time home buyers, Amaia is the first foray by Filipinos belonging to the country's second largest market segment.

Amaia Land is not only a major contributor to Ayala Land's bottom-line targets to date, it is also more instrumental in empowering and developing the company's middle income segment and increasing land and housing bank for more people.

According to Amaia president Nicky M. Cebu, the brand is now present in six locations.

"This year we are adding 11 new locations to the Amaia portfolio, and over the next five years, we are going into 42 locations. With the vision of expanding its geographical footprint, Amaia has definitely ensures Ayala Land's ticket to enter more geographies beyond the traditional strong areas such as Makati, Alabang and Cebu, thereby enabling more Filipino families enjoy access to quality and affordable homes, be it a house and lot or a condominium unit," Cebu explained.

Amaia Skies boasts of its "green wall" as its condominium façade – a sustainable feature that ensures heat reduction for the podium area

Amaia Scapes patio-green allows more space for family bonding moments and shared experiences

Did what differentiates Amaia from their traditional market rivals, according to Cebu, is the standard of quality that Ayala Land provides.

And this quality is clearly evident in the development's sustainable features, such as the "Patio Green" concept which is one of the highlights of Amaia's house and lot projects. The Patio Green concept ensures that open spaces are evenly distributed all throughout the development to promote better air quality and circulation.

Another sustainable design feature is the deliberate absence of light colored paint for the homes, so as to minimize heat, thereby reducing electrical consumption. For its condominiums, Amaia Skies' open areas allow cross-ventilation; while Amaia Skies uses "green walls" on its façade to reduce heat gain in the podium areas.

Beyond all these features, what truly sets Amaia apart is the living experience that homeowners will enjoy, according to Cebu.

"The living experience is a major consideration in the relatively tight area because in this segment, once the unit is turned over to the owner, you're left to fend for yourself. But with Amaia, homeowners are reassured that they will get the same level of village management that Ayala Land is known for. The living experience with an Amaia property is never compromised.

BellaVita: Quality homes for more Pinoys

The fifth and youngest residential brand in Ayala Land caps off the thrust of Ayala Land to achieve true sustainability and contribute significantly to nation building as the development's vision BellaVita cater to the underserved base of the pyramid.

Rolled out in the last quarter of 2011, BellaVita offers socialized housing units worth between P400,000 and P600,000, which could be the largest brand in its portfolio over the next 10 years. More importantly, BellaVita serves as a new avenue for Ayala Land to reach out and provide more community opportunities for people building better lives for themselves. "We call these developments as used-emergence communities. These aren't just socialized housing, as we make sure we recognize client feedback in every development," noted Ayala Land Executive Vice President Bobby Go.

Simply put, BellaVita projects will encourage pro-active development among future buyers, by providing them with the means or an avenue to pursue a simple livelihood, such as putting up a sari-sari store or providing wet market products, vegetables and the like.

With BellaVita, minimum wage earners and members of the informal business sector are given the opportunity of experiencing the pride of owning a home

Every BellaVita development will embody Ayala Land's thrust on sustainable living and complement its promise of "Buhay Dapat, Buhay Dagupat".

A concrete example of how BellaVita can achieve such, according to Go, is by giving them a space for livelihood and entrepreneurial opportunities that will allow future homeowners to set up small retail ventures—a unique concept that is rarely, if not at all, seen in other communities. For instance, the first BellaVita development being put up in Tanza Maritess in Cavite will allocate a fairly generous 7.1 hectares of land at the outskirts of the community, solely to house the enterprises of the buyers.

Consequently, the simple act of allocating a space for businesses to flourish would allow jobs to be generated and for people to earn, thus improving their living standards. Inevitably, the whole community benefits from the robust economic activities—no matter how small in scale—within the enterprise hood. And this exactly is what is on sustainability is about, Go said.

For this year alone, Ayala Land is hoping to launch three to five BellaVita developments. By 2013, the company is hoping to ramp up projects in a bid to tap a bigger socio-economic market that deserves quality homes, despite the fact that the company is still testing the viability of the model being applied to the BellaVita developments.

And the same, Ayala Land intends to go nationwide as it seeks to provide the socialized segment with a better community and premium living experience befitting any deserving Filipino, he concluded.

Then, through all these five residential brands, Ayala Land has once again set the benchmark that other players in the property industry should emulate, as it holds steadfast to its belief that putting up sustainable communities is the key for a country to move forward.

But more than just putting up sustainable communities, a more crucial factor to achieving true sustainability—as Ayala Land has demonstrated over decades—is the integration and synergy across its five brands, as all Ayala Land developments are driven and unified by common, clear cut objectives, thus fostering community engagements that cut across all demographics.

And true enough, this had propelled Ayala Land to be a cut above the rest, as it continues to break barriers and go beyond norms to provide every Filipino sustainable living conditions that are crucial to building the nation.

Appreciating Earth.
AyalaLand

ithin Ayala Westgrove Heights, neighbors are more than friends, they're allies in sustainability.

Residents of Ayala Westgrove Heights don't just enjoy co-existing with each other, they learn to co-exist with nature as well. Residents practice segregation, which minimizes residual waste and composting, which produces fertilizers for the community's gardening needs. The neighborhood takes pride in a diverse population of birds, a true sign of a healthy environment. Bringing nature and sustainable practices closer to home ensures that Ayala Land is investing in a long life on Earth.

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INSIDE

■ **Earnest portrayals by lead stars make 'Unofficially Yours' viewable** Viewfinder /13

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Enjoy the goodness of chicken and mushrooms, mixed into a delightful blend of tomatoes, herbs and spices.

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Put an end to bill nightmares with the Sun anti-bill shockplans

Surprises are not always happy, as there are some kinds of surprises that you wish never happened. Take for instance those seemingly weightless texts like billing statements. Some people have reportedly had the most shocking moments of their lives upon reading total amount due.

It's all thing with Ana Nicole Castillo Perez, a work-from-home mom, described the day she received an unusually large bill for her cellfone. "I had to allot a pancit canton budget (ano-datte ito) for... (my name)."

For a government employee like Jeff Alcantara who diligently saves for his kids' school fees, unexpected increases in expenses were disappointing. "We didn't get any salary increase with an increase in the billing fee. It was a 25-percent increment and it was no joke!"

Meanwhile, car owners can relate to the experience of Michelle Velarde, a marketer for an outsourcing company. "I was really shocked when my car insurance agent gave us the computation for a comprehensive insurance. Good thing they allowed us to pay in six monthly installments. Still, we need to pay almost the same amount each year."

Imagine getting billed over P10,000 for a month's mobile phone usage. "It was a dreadful moment because for many years I was only paying a monthly subscription fee, then all of a sudden one month the figures suddenly multiplied," said housewife Richie Dizo. After this, she switched to prepaid service.

Fascinating budgeting for her school and daily needs, student Angela Herrera is shocked at the escalated prices of commodities and services. "When I go to the bookstore to buy materials for projects or books, I wonder if I have what I need? When I eat, I wonder if what I eat is value-for-money already."

For those who find their monthly bills regularly going up, there have been some as a caution. In case of phone-bills, for instance, there are miscalculated hours of phone or internet usage that go beyond limit. Whatever the case, there is a need to protect one's self from these shocker bills.

Good thing, there's Sun Cellular's Sun Anti-Shock Bill Plans (SABS) comprised of three unbeatable postpaid offerings. Each plan starts with an affordable monthly subscription fee loaded with lots of Sun's "Unlimited" features. These plans come with the "anti-shock cap," which sets a fixed monthly fee for those who have exceeded their allotted usage limit.

For internet users, there's the Sun Anti-Bill Shock Data Plan. Enjoy 40 hours of broadband internet use with up to 3.6 mbps speed for only P1699 a month and a measly P10 per additional hour, or a fixed minimum payment of P999 upon exceeding 120 hours or more. Or for internet on your mobile, enjoy 20 hours for only P149 a month, while having that peace of mind not to pay more P999 no matter surfing.

For heavy texters, the Sun Anti-Bill Shock Text All Plan is heaven-sent with 1,000 SMS to other networks by simply adding P1399 per month to their existing Sun plan. This is a no-brainer with the convenience of using only your Sun GSM/smart any network at only 25 cents per SMS sent. Exceeding the monthly SMS limit is also no worry with its fixed add-on rate of only P1/MB.

Landline phone subscribers save more and enjoy more landline access with Sun Anti-Bill Shock Mobile Landline Plan. Enjoy unlimited local landline calls for only P249/per month.

These bill shockers give total subscriber protection - from optimum usage to worry-free payments - a real Anti-Shock protection that every postpaid subscriber needs for their peace of mind. With these choices and irresistible features, there's surely a Sun Anti-Bill Shock plan for everyone.

Want to know more about the SUN ABS Plans? Visit The Sun Shop outlets located nationwide or call Sun's Hotline 333 or 0922 using your Sun-powered mobile phone or (02) 886-3333 or (02) 886-8000 from any landline phone. Twitter us at http://www.sunostrute.com.ph; visit Sun Facebook page: www.facebook.com/sunostruteph and follow Sun Cellular on Twitter: www.twitter.com/sunostrutepromo.

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ANGELES

Earnest, committed portrayals make Angel-Lloydie rom-com viewable

ANGEL LOCSIN and John Lloyd Cruz's new "more adult" rom-com, "Unofficially Yours," breaks some of the "rules" of its film type, like slowly but surely settling up its love story so that viewers can somehow settle with every step of the lead couple's romance, up to its final, blissful climax and apotheosis—ahhhh: a usually a big wedding.

That may work for most rom-coms, but Gerby Garcia-Medina's new film is never the tried and tested format on its head—by starting with Angel and John Lloyd in the full throes of a one-night stand! The "shocking" or at least surprising scene explains the flick's "more adult" tag and marks at least an uptick in the screen couple's continuing process of "maturation."

It works better for Angel than it does for Lloydie, because his relatively soft and "bootiful" physique is not exactly the stuff of adult "bolder" bed scenes we made or made for.

Still, we credit both for being "game" enough to add bits to their previously safe screen "exposure" (literally). Some other physique is not exactly the stuff of adult "bolder" bed scenes we made or made for.

Still, we credit both for being "game" enough to add bits to their previously safe screen "exposure" (literally). Some other physique is not exactly the stuff of adult "bolder" bed scenes we made or made for.

ANGEL Locsin and John Lloyd Cruz

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

to being strangers—until, by some extraordinary twist of fate, they find themselves working in the same newspaper office!

John Lloyd is clearly smitten, but Angel doesn't reciprocate because, we find out in due time, she's been burned by the fickle flames of love, so one night or one month stands are fine with her—absolutely no commitments, please!

John Lloyd grudgingly agrees to the rather cold and utilitarian arrangement—but, viewers may be less amicable to it because, just a few months ago, they watched another movie about a hard-hearted girl ("My Cactus Heart"), so couldn't they be blamed for wondering why they're being given much more of the same so soon.

After dealing with that momentary downer, however, the viewer can still find interesting things in the film to keep watching. For one thing, the rare leads' portrayals are nothing if not earnest and committed.

Still, John Lloyd lacks a bit too much of the "bad" in his, when he occasionally indulges in pa-cute and "pang-kilig" antics, they come off as rather forced and inappropriate.

Angel comes off better but she, too, is limited by her tense way of delivering her lines, at times even through clenched teeth, if that is motivated by her perception of the unhappiness of the character she plays, it's a distracting rather than distilling performance.

Predictably, the movie reveals the details of Angel's previous love lessons, but the sharing comes too late to be truly useful. Another limitation is that her former lover is played by Patrick Garcia, whose vague performance adds little to our understanding of the issues.

Finally, Angel's last-minute change of heart is caused by a plot ploy that is patently unlikely, because no newspaper would allow itself to be used for such personal, self-serving purposes.

All told, "Unofficially Yours" has more going against rather than for it—but, the leads' committed portrayals keep us hoping for the best—up to the final fade.

Hunky actor's handsome friend makes leading lady feel left out

By the Entertainment Staff

IF HUNKY Actor and Leading Lady lacked chemistry on screen, it could still be because the guy was distracted while they were shooting.

On the set outside Manila, away from prying eyes, HA felt comfortable (and seductive) enough to bring Handsome Friend along.

LL felt left out because HA and HF were constantly smoothing, unmindful of the cast and crew. On more than one occasion, HA sat on HF's lap! Understandably, LL found it nearly impossible to take "Action" for HA.

LL's supporters were not surprised when the doomed project flopped.

Publicity hounds

So much for secrecy. This dynamic duo has given new meaning to "double-talk."

Penny Dreamdaily insists she's "publicity shy," but Actor Daniller has been cranking up a well-oiled hype machine...as pop up lamb chops attest to, no doubt.

In a recent event, AH whispered to TV crews: "PP is backstage. Talk to her and make it appear like an ambush interview."

AH's staff said other reporters that only TV crews could approach PP. The discriminated media people scoffed: "We're not even interested in her!"

Notorious

Former Reader has built a nasty rep. She got to stumble for "improvising" Glamorous Actress and Sexy Star in the past.

Now, PA is trashing the Ex-Married Playboy Star. TS was spotted having dinner with SH in a posh hotel.

PP friends are bristling: "Doesn't he have better things to do than PP around with women like that?"

Forgetful star

Anyway, that couldn't understand why Gossiped Actress is fast-receding. Say. When SA was down and out, SA was among those who rushed to her aid.

"SA's appliances were about to be repossessed," a studio insider. "She asked a director friend to approach Co for a loan." PD willingly coughed up the cash, but later felt betrayed.

"SH, it is Grapefruit," the insider claims. "SA-even allowed SH to crash in her home once."

Poison dan

Physiologist Dreamdaily supposedly teamed up with Controversial Celebrity-Espionage Person Dan.

Could it be because PP is envious adults CC is innocent of PP convicted? Was this primary-school source of the rumors bullying PP with Married Boss?

Honors for Pacino

WASHINGTON—Actor Al Pacino and country singer Mel Tillis were among 15 poets, historians, organizations and others honored at the White House on Monday for their contributions to the arts or to the humanities.

Saying they had "left an indelible mark on American culture," President Barack Obama awarded the honorees the 2011 National Medal of Arts and the National Humanities Medal in a glittering ceremony in the White House's East Room.

Pacino, 71-year-old star of "The Godfather" and "Any Given Sunday," was awarded the National Medal of Arts, with Obama citing his "signature intensity as an actor."

Reuters

Romantic tragedy

SEELEY—When actor director Billy Bob Thornton was a boy his father took him to the scene of car crashes to survey the wreckage. See he has tricked his unconventional childhood into a movie.

Says Thornton's Co: "I am a dark family comedy, one wants to applauded at the Berlin film festival ahead of its world premiere. It is the first feature Thornton has directed for over a decade. He also stars.

"If you could say what this movie is about in one sentence, it's about the romantcisms of tragedy," Thornton told reporters. The movie, also starring Robert Duvall, Kevin Bacon and John Hurt, is in the main competition.

Thornton is in Berlin at the same time as ex-wife Angelina Jolie, whose Bosnian war drama "In the Land of Blood and Honey" was also screened at the festival.

"Angelina is a wonderful woman and one of my best friends in the world—we talk on a regular basis," he said. "When a couple splits up, people like to make up stories about how much there are against each other. That man never was [with us]. It never has been and never will be. I'll love her to the end of

ANNE Curtis in Leo Salonga 'pushes all her buttons' in 'What?'

AL PACINO at the White House

CRISTINE Reyes steps it up in bed

DAVID, Pinoy biggest hunk home in Brazil

my life and she'll love me, as friends." Reuters

Top of Bandera

The top show biz news in the business tabloid Bandera (and why are we moved if we are moved):

• Hayden Kho ungrateful show ng "Pinki Sticks" (DJ ensaym mo)? She's probably just helping make some noise about her new web program.)

• Joy in Hayden: Bobo mga ibang sinabi. (Say in Bobo, "Where does? pin Hayden in a bad light." Tomorrow kaya, bet na ulit?)

• Vicki Belo Aalingaang mumbling nang malalim. (Actually, we heard she had a hot date—ah-ooh ha!

• Sa pagkakaalala ni Hayden sa pag-aalis "Bilango" Good luck sa Aetyes—Katrina Halili. (Good luck is everybody!)

• Raymond Gutierrez inulat ng "date" ni Liz Uy. (Should we be concerned?)

• Sa pagkakaalala Limahaves raw si Iya at Bea (Ikar who laughed all the way to the you-know-where?)

• Angel Locsin nobleness na sa Ambahan ni Pokwang. (Maybe it's always been there; Pokwang merely needed to ask.)

• Daniel Matsunaga humalik na sa Brazil. (With or without whom?)

• Cristine Reyes balite na babe-bay Raymart. (Good luck?)

• Kapuso Diplomat ingratiability or magnanime, Leo Salonga inggit na inggit sa boss si Anne Curtis. (This must be a joke.)

• Pinta Aralita Aamandyo: Hindi ko tinanong na lingerie si Annabelle Rama. (Buti in Tagalog, "Inner Wearer").

• Baka ayaw pang humalik sa pag-aartista, Regine: Baka pinlanes lang ako? (Don't overact...)

• Grace Lee: Sobra talaga akong masaktan—sa artista ni Ellen DeGeneRhat na she was bested! marrying P-Noy dine. (Ow-ouwwww-ouwwww.)

• Jessica Garcia: Dami ko nang mga nawa- se maglo-anak. (Speechless kami.)

• Kapa rose bowl miniature up, anak Anne-Jessica nina Maricel at Sitoe Jiggy 'mini-malas.' (We're not kidding sa breach; it's OK.)

Meet-and-greet with Amy Lee of Evanescence today

AMY LEE, lead vocalist of Grammy-winning American rock band Evanescence, will meet fans at 1 p.m. at SM Megamall, before the group's concert tonight at 8 at the Smart Araneta Coliseum. Purchase of an Evanescence CD at Odyssey Megamall provides access to the meet-and-greet session.

The concert marks the band's first visit to the Philippines. Formed 17 years ago in Little Rock, Arkansas, Evanescence shot to fame in 2003 with the release of its first full-length studio album, "Fallen," which sold more than 17 million copies worldwide and won for the group two Grammy awards for Best Hard Rock Performance and Best New Artist.

Special guest is British band Breaking Benjamin, fronted by Scottish musician Benjamin Burnley.

Benefit concert

Heber Barcelona, Noel Cabangon, Willie Nepomuceno, Cooky Chua, Sarang Barrios, Jaclyn Dela and Bess Vergara perform in "Boy Soup: Celebrating the JOY of Living"—a benefit concert on Feb. 23 at the Bistro ng Alumni of the University of the Philippines Diliman, Quezon City. The show will be preceded by a dinner and an audio-video presentation on the life of a journalist. Mounted by a group of media persons, dubbed the Thursday Club, "Boy Soup" is supported by

TAYLOR Dayne and Edwin McCain: Shows moved to May 31

PLDT, Smart Communications, Standard Insurance Inc., Mulungan Life OIL San Miguel Corp., Yes Bistro and Company Garden Cafe. Proceeds will go to the Philippine Cancer Society. Call 2094792 or 9924-3658.

Christian, Karylle

"Love & Laughter" features Christian Bautista and Karylle, with Nanette Inventor, on Feb. 25 at Resorts World Manila's Newport Performing Arts Theater in Pasay. The post-Valentine show combines music and comedy, with guests Pinoy and Opera Belles. Freddie Santos di-

rects. Call 8500111 or 9111999, or visit evenasia.com.

Rex Smith

Singer-actor Rex Smith performs tomorrow, 8 p.m., at the 500 of Resorts World Manila. Its headliner that night's lineup of artists, which include Ima Castro, Simply Cabaret, and Stephen

EVANESCENCE at Smart Araneta tonight

'Sound of Music'

Meanwhile, Resorts World Manila's production of Rodgers and Hammerstein's "The Sound of Music" has been extended till May 27.

The musical's first season ran from Dec. 16 to Dec. 26, 2011. The second season runs to Jan. 6, with competing show dates every Friday (8 p.m.), Saturday (2 p.m. and 7 p.m.), and Sunday (2 p.m. and 7 p.m.).

"The Sound of Music" stars Joanna Bangit, Audie Gemora, Miguel Faustmann, Pricky Antolin, Pinky Mangune and Jhilcraft, among others, with Cris Villanueva, Ariel Rivera and Leo Martinez alternating as Maria von Trapp, Captain Von Trapp and Max (newsies, respectively.

ARIEL Rivera in "The Sound of Music"

PAUL Cabagnot in "JOY of Living"

Dayne, McCain

The back-to-back concerts of Taylor Dayne and Edwin McCain have been moved to May 31 at the Waterfront Cebu Hotel and Casino (1 a.m. the 30th), SM Mall of Asia complex in Pasay.

Dayne, an American singer-songwriter and dance artist, is known for the single "Tell It to My Heart" and the No. 1 Billboard hit "Love Will Lead You Back." Overall, she has scored 18 top 10 hits on the Billboard chart, including 2000's "Beautiful" and 2011's "Fleet on Fire."

McCain, also from the United States, found fame in a long time with Hootie and the Blowfish. In 1994 they can recorded his first major label album, "Honey Among Thieves." His second album, "Misguided Hero," spawned "I'll Be," a major hit single in 1998.

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ENTERTAINMENT

5 nominations for 'Magno Rubio' in LA theater awards

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Rahwa T. Asghedom

"THE ROMANCE of Magno Rubio" examines the lives of homesick Filipino migrant workers in 1930s California.

LOS ANGELES—"The Romance of Magno Rubio," a revival of Lonnie Carter's stage adaptation of Carlos Bulosan's seminal short story in [header] the Fred in Hollywood last November, earned five nominations in the LA Weekly Theater Awards.

The play on a group of homesick Filipino migrant workers in 1930s California garnered nods for director (**Bernardo Bernardo**), ensemble, lead male performance (**Jose Jon Briones**), choreography (**Peter De Guzman**) and light choreography (**Pedro Benitez**). The multiple nominations was a first in Daniel the Fred's history.

Executive producer **Ted Benito** of *Ted Live!*, which staged the play in alternating English and Tagalog performances for the first time, said, "Just to be nominated is a big deal because out of the hundreds of theater productions that open every year, 'Romance' was among only 24 productions that were nominated."

The LA Weekly Theater Awards, which honors the best work in small stages, is on its 32nd year. Voted on by the publication's theater critics, the awards will be presented in a Greek-style bash on April 23 at the Avalon in Hollywood.

We asked some of the jubilant "Magno" nominees for their reactions:

Bernardo Bernardo, director: I am so happy that the story of the 'manongs' received the recognition it so richly deserves

▸ Bernardo Bernardo: "I am overwhelmed and truly grateful. I am so happy that the story of the manongs received the recognition and respect it so richly deserves. Happily, Bulosan's spirit is completed to make it a trident success. We share this additional honor, this acknowledgment of the history and spirit of what was once a voiceless and invisible minority. Thanks to the hard-working, emotionally invested talents who made it a reality."

The multitalented performer also opened what he once called "Romance's" memorable Chicago run several years ago: "On board the SS United Statues/On a manong's journey like no other/We danced in echoes of distant voices/Stricken by the sharp sign of deadly arithmetic/As we leap of bottomless hopes and dreams/Something from a passport, for pain is pain/Alive, at last!"

'Life-affirming'

▸ Ted Benito: "*Ted Live!* and cocreators Ed Rasadeo and Lovely Rimland really wanted to put a worthwhile show that fulfilled the expectations of the fred. We wanted to stay true to Lonnie's sentiment and Bernardo's sensibilities; we wanted to relate the story of the manongs to a whole new generation of Filipinos and to remind everyone about the power of theater.

"Everything else—the sold out shows, good reviews, and now, three nominations—are all icing on the cake. They were completely unexpected! But, what it means is that we, as Filipino Americans in theater, can present viable, sophisticated, life-affirming productions that are of the same caliber, if not more unique, as other productions in LA. Out of the hundreds, if not thousands, of theater productions that opened in LA in 2011, to be nominated in five categories is truly an honor."

▸ Jose Jon Briones: "Our nominations say a lot about how we worked together as a group, as a family, really, which must have translated onstage. We were an ensemble of [mostly] Filipino actors, depicting a time in American history of our ancestors, that has gone largely unnoticed. We were able to bring that story to the public eye in two languages to reach as many people as we could."

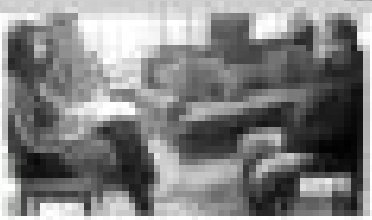
▸ Edmund Cubling: "Portraying a story about Filipinos who lived and struggled was truly a blessing. There was an obligation to stay truthful to the material. Working with an ensemble that poured their hearts out every day made it a pleasure to come to work. We never expected the accolades that came our way. As storytellers, it was our job to impart to the audience a culture and heritage that not many people know about. The nominations were a humbling surprise."

▸ Frederick Edwards: "Excellent never 'dies' deserved nominations."

▸ Gela Francisco: "The Romance of Magno Rubio' will always get attention when and wherever it may be produced. The story is timeless and known in rural boondocks. That is why it will always be cited by critics as a winner, heroes in grandiose story of the triumph of the human spirit. The nominations are an affirmation of the hard work, integrity, hon-

[continued from p. 1]

84th Oscars live on Velvet



MOVIE TIME

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MALL SPECIAL

RACHELLE Ann Go Power-packed

THE Company X! Consistently raising the bar

Formidable lineup

BASIL Valdez: He's back; it's good news.

RACHELLE Ann Go is at the peak of her power as a pop singer, and not just because she hits impossibly high notes in as many different ways as she pleases...also sends with grace, with authority, at times with something approaching vengeance. It's also because she has obviously taken meticulous care of her voice and honed her technique to a formidable sharpness, that even "Seasons of Love" (Oct. 15, Newport, Resorts World) course final bidder made sure to point it out. And that's the final Valdez, who has come back to the concert stage in a big way (thank heaven. The (full) headliner, the ever-dependable The Company, continues to surprise us with a degree of determination to raise the bar for the spectators and for themselves as well. Few groups would venture, like this group recently does, into "experimental" territory, music-wise. In every performance unseen as, accordingly, that committed artists will conceive to challenge us, reinvent us, if necessary. The Company! looks up to its fans, more than the other way around, and always illustrates to confidence in their capacity to appreciate diligently prepared numbers. We're happy that we're in this dove- Jerome G. Mercado

Cignal Digital TV takes Over Spratlys

In November last year, Cignal, the country's first ever high definition (HD) satellite provider, gave a life-changing gift to the residents of Barangay Pag-asa in Kalayaan, Spratly Islands – the gift of access to information and entertainment.

When outgoing Mayor Ig Pelawan Sarah Elanio wrote a letter to Philippine Long Distance Telecommunication (PLDT) Chairman Manny V. Pangilinan asking that they be provided satellite-equipped television sets, the request was so selfless and so heartfelt that Mr. Pangilinan and his Cignal team readily responded to it.

The journey

The journey to Barangay Pag-asa is one that will test the mettle of even the most seasoned traveller. From Puerto Princesa in Palawan, it still takes about two to three days to get to Spratlys, depending on the type of vessel and the weather. Once on the island, visitors stay there for at least 30 days – whether by choice or not – because ships dock only once every month.

The installation

The installation itself was a two-week process, with a maximum of five satellite units installed per day. In total, 33 satellite units with brand-new LED televisions were installed in Barangay Pag-asa which is the only municipality on the island with access to scheduled electricity.

The fruits of labor

As expected, the residents of Pag-asa were extremely delighted to receive such a generous gift. Speaking in the vernacular, one resident said, "Ever since we had Cignal here in Barangay Pag-asa, it has changed our lives. Our previously lonely day-to-day living has been replaced by more joy. We cannot imagine going back to the time when all we knew were each other because we had no one or four from anybody else and we had nothing to entertain us."

The older residents who once lived off the island were eager to revisit the joys of watching television while the children, most of whom have never seen a TV set before, were only too happy to watch cartoons. Cignal's clear and crisp reception even on the remote island, and the brand new LED TVs' "high tech" functions also added to the new-owner excitement.

Before Cignal came to install satellite units and provide TV sets, the men of the town passed off time by drinking outdoors. The drinking sessions were so commonplace that the municipal store would even run out of alcohol. "Today, the alcoholic drinks in the stores are hardly touched because the men rarely drink," a resident shared.

The residents are excluded. He also took to toll on relationships and Cignal's presence has been an early and welcome one improving the dynamics between couples, families and friends on the island. With visual entertainment right at their fingertips, bonding sessions have now become more frequent and relationships have started to gain back the spark.

"We are glad because [we] it's something sessions have become more frequent. We also spend more time bonding with our spouses. In the past, because of the lonely life we endure here," shared one happy wife and mother.

Whereas they used to hear more about their Chinese and Vietnamese neighbors (especially their music which the radio on the island showcased to), the residents of Pag-asa now feel more in touch with their Filipino roots.

"We are no longer unaware of what is happening around us. We know more and we understand more. Our children now know who leads the country. It is our honor to be given this gift that we will never forget," another resident said.

"We are extremely delighted to have made such a huge impact in the lives of our fellowmen in Barangay Pag-asa," said Managing Director, Amos Hawit. She added, "As a company, Cignal's commitment has always been to make quality entertainment accessible to more Filipinos and our work at Kalayaan proves just that. We hope our modest contribution will give them that sense of strong connection to the rest of the country and empower them through quality information and entertainment."

It did not seem too long ago when life at Kalayaan was always and hopeless. One straight forward letter and one very generous response changed it all and life in the Spratlys Pag-asa is now as flowerful as it should be.

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Online Language Teachers Wanted

PGH Medical Foundation Expands Fund-Raising Efforts via UnionBank U-Share Facility

THE PGH MEDICAL Foundation, Inc. (PGHMFI) recently teamed up with UnionBank to expand the reach of its outreach endeavors by availing of the Bank's breakthrough product, the U-Share facility. The U-Share project provides non-profit organizations (NPOs) with online and mobile donation channels that enable them to receive donations from individuals and corporations around the world.

U-Share is the offering of UnionBank's drive toward technological innovations in transactional banking and a commitment to corporate social responsibility, inspired by Bluello, a Latin word which articulates that a person is a person only through other persons. UnionBank through the leadership of Chairman and Bluello advocate Jaddi Dee, developed U-Share as an end-to-end facility for the fund-raising requirements of foundations and other NPOs.

PGHMFI President Dr. Gregorio Abiva expressed confidence in the transformative ability of a genuine service to serve the less fortunate, as embodied in PGHMFI's mission and the Bank's social responsibility agenda. Through the PGHMFI via U-Share, Filipinos are provided with an opportunity to uplift the lives of others. To donate to the PGH Medical Foundation, Inc., go to www.pghmedicalfoundation.com and click on the "U-Share donate" button.

COUNTRY DIRECTOR – Philippines

Manila, Philippines

Initial Closing Date: **March 2, 2012**

Asian Aid Inc. (AAI) is an international non-governmental organization whose mission is to save the sight and lives of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged by combating the causes and consequences of blindness and malnutrition. We are currently seeking a Country Director in the Philippines to represent AAI and be responsible for all AAI Philippines (AAI-PH) activities.

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- This position is based in Manila, Philippines, with frequent travel within the Philippines. Periodic international travel is required.
- Reports directly to Vice President, Regional Director for Asia-Pacific Region (APR).
- Directs the work of 140 staff and international consultants in the Philippines.
- Collaborates with AAI Asia-Pacific Regional Staff, other AAI APR Country Directors, AAI-NY Program Department, particularly AAI Senior Vice President, Programs; AAI-NY Finance, Human Resources and Communications Departments; Governmental, International, Fraternity and Non-governmental Organizations within the Philippines.

Scope of Responsibilities:

- Manage key project personnel to ensure that the objectives agreed to in grants and contracts for AAI-Philippines projects are achieved.
- Develop strategic plans to further the overall mission and specific programs of AAI that meet the evolving needs and conditions in the Philippines.
- Represent AAI in the Philippines, and liaise with governmental and non-governmental organizations in the Philippines, donors, and AAI headquarters.
- Oversee, coordinate and develop AAI-Philippines's program portfolio to ensure the highest level of project quality and accountability, while fostering continuity through building local capacity.
- Represent AAI to solicit and provide technical input to the government, international donor agencies and technical advisory groups pertinent to AAI project activities.
- Work with AAI Regional Office and HQ to manage the development of annual field budgets for Philippine projects.
- Oversee the design of new innovative program concepts and the generation of success papers, proposals and other information as needed for submission to donors and others for fundraising and networking purposes.
- Solicit funds and in-kind donations from corporations, foundations, governmental organizations, and international and bilateral agencies in the Philippines.

Skills/Knowledge Required:

- Ten (10) years of program related experience, including at least 7 years of managing a large staff, both national and international, in an organizational setting.
- A Master's degree in public health, nutrition, development, management or related field.
- Excellent oral and written English language skills, including the ability to quickly synthesize complex technical and programmatic issues into concise communications.
- Demonstrated experience and skills in leadership, staff management, program development and management, monitoring and evaluation, and public speaking.
- Demonstrated ability to generate program funding including donor solicitation and grant writing.
- Computer literate in a variety of word processing, spreadsheet and statistical software; experience in data analysis and interpretation is highly desirable.
- Ability to travel within the Philippines regularly and periodically internationally.
- Strong preference will be given to fluent Tagalog speakers.

This initial contract is for two years with the possibility of renewal depending on performance and availability of funding. Salary based on qualifications, experience, and program requirements.

Interested candidates should submit: (1) a well-thought out cover letter in the body of the email; and (2) a current curriculum vitae in English to Dr. Leonardo R. Rosales, Jr., Officer-in-Charge, lar.rosales@hq.aai.org and to Ms Venetia Lumbao at vlumbao@hq.aai. Please note HQ (Philippines in the header. All correspondence should include physical and e-mail addresses as well as contact telephone number(s). Only e-mail applications will be accepted.

We appreciate the interest of all applicants in working for AAI. However, due to the volume of applications we receive, only short-listed candidates will be notified.

AM Associates, Inc., an international development organization

composed of a multi-disciplinary group of dedicated professionals who provide technical assistance, research, analysis, and curriculum training services in more than 140 countries, seeks candidates for several upcoming USAID-funded health projects in the Philippines. Please note, all positions are contingent on successful award.

Project Director / Communications responsible for overall management and technical leadership of the project including guiding senior technical staff and the achievement of project results. Extensive experience managing programs in the areas of health communications, BCC, social marketing/marketing, required. Minimum Masters of Communication, Public Health or similar area with at least 15 years experience in providing technical assistance in BCC programs.

Deputy Project Director / Communications responsible for the management of the project and for ensuring the responsiveness and quality of work along with efficient use of resources and achievement of results. Supports the COP in decisions related to technical, management, resource allocation and personnel issues. Minimum Masters in Communication, Public Health or similar area with at least 10 years experience leading similar health programs.

Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) Advisor for IPC oversees the design, implementation and evaluation of BCC activities, including social norms campaigns, literacy and environmental communication. Provides technical support and oversight to the community mobilization team to ensure effective design and delivery of outreach efforts. Minimum Masters in Communication, Public Health or similar area with at least 5-7 years experience designing & implementing similar programs.

Research, Evaluation and Monitoring Specialist (M&E) provides technical support and oversight in the implementation of research activities and M&E efforts for the project. Expertise in quantitative and qualitative research methods and experience in designing and conducting research studies and M&E activities for complex health programs required. Minimum Masters in Public Health, Statistics or similar area PhD preferred with at least 5 years experience or similar health programs.

Mass Media Specialist to work directly with ad retaining agencies to coordinate design, test and develop key messages and materials for a variety of audiences. Minimum Masters in Communication, Advertising, Marketing, Public Health, Social Media or similar area with at least 5 years experience in designing and implementing similar health programs.

Senior Technical Specialists with the following backgrounds: Maternal and Reproductive Health; Child Health; FP/CYP/IPC; Tuberculosis; Malaria Prevention and Control. Minimum Qualifications: MD or Master in Public Health (MPH) 8+ years of relevant work experience in the pertinent technical area, with a focus on expansion of access and use of services, demonstrated understanding of key prevention, treatment and care approaches in RH/MCH, Malaria, TB, or other diseases as relevant, demonstrated ability of developing innovative approaches for capacity building in the relevant technical area.

Senior Finance Manager/Accountant supports the financial management of the project, including budget monitoring, financial reporting and analysis, accounting and payroll. Performs financial reporting and controls. Minimum Bachelor's degree in Finance, Business, or equivalent with at least 10 years experience.

Operations/Logistics Manager develops and supports administrative and operational systems to ensure compliance with USAID contractual and reporting requirements. Supports the planning and executing conferences, workshops, and other events. Minimum Master's degree in administration, business or operations management, or other relevant field and 6+ years experience.

Human Resources Manager oversees all HR functions including the development of policies and processes. Recruits, trains administrative staff to provide HR support when required, trains and updates staff on policies, procedures and regulations. Minimum Master's degree in Human Resources, Business Administration, or another related field and 6+ years experience.

To Apply: Please email CVs and cover letters to Philippines-Consultant@abtassoc.com with the position title you are applying for (e.g. "Human Resources Manager"). You can find out more about Abt Associates, Inc. at http://www.abtassoc.com.

Abt

Mich & Myl nails
Urgent Hiring!!!
Our company is in behalf of an
ARCHITECT DRAFTSMAN
Male/Female
Must know CAD
EE preferable but not necessary
With or without license
Workable with experience
Email your resume'd
(charisse@mich-mylnail.com.ph
or contact Rina Jan ly – 09481516302
Location: San Juan, Manila

An established condominium complex located in a developing business/commercial district of Metro Manila is offering career opportunity for the following position in its dynamic Property Management organization:

Bldg Admin Assistant – college graduate, with minimum 2 years work experience, high sense of organization, computer skills (MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint, etc.) necessary, proficiency in oral & written English a must

Applicants may submit their comprehensive resume via email to: ryan4200@aol.com

Philippine Airlines

Philippine Airlines Aviation School is in need of Flight Instructors

QUALIFICATIONS

Filipino citizen
At least 5'4" in height
Must possess the CPL w/ IR, Radio Licenses
Preferably with FI, GI licenses

PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING REQUIREMENTS ON OR BEFORE FEBRUARY 27, 2012

Resumé w/ 2 X 2 Picture (Red Background)
Transcript of Records (photocopy)
College Diploma (photocopy)
Birth Certificate (photocopy)
CPL w/ IR, GI, FI, Radio License (photocopy)
Last 3 pages of the Logbook (photocopy)

TO:

Talent Acquisition, Management and Retention Division
Human Resources Department, Philippine Airlines
2/F, PNB Financial Center
President Diosdado Macapagal Avenue,
CCP Complex, Pasay City

Or, e-mail to **placements@pal.com.ph**, please indicate the **Code ADS-FI2** at the upper left corner of the resumé.
Walk-in applicants are welcome.

An opportunity to work with the national flag carrier!

Philippine Airlines

Philippine Airlines Flight Operations Department

is in need of

A320 Captains
(with at least 4,000 flying hours)

A320 First Officers
(with at least 1,200 flying hours)

Second Officers for Widebody Aircraft
B747 / B777 / A340 / A330
(with at least 500 flying hours)

CONTACT DETAILS

For minimum qualifications and documents required for each position, interested applicants may direct inquiries

TO:

Ms. Marilou C. Licaric
Office of the Sr. Assistant Vice President - Flight Operations
at tel. nos. 852-6031 and 855-8000
loc. 2305 or 2603
or, e-mail address:
lea_licaric@pal.com.ph

An opportunity to serve Asia's First Airline!

GREENPEACE

One of the world's leading environmental campaigning organizations is looking for hardworking and highly motivated candidates to take on the implementation of Greenpeace's ongoing campaigns in The Philippines.

MASS MOBILISATION COUNTRY MANAGER

The Mass Mobilisation Department is a new and evolving initiative of Greenpeace Southeast Asia (GPSEA). Integrating leading involvement in grassroots and digital organizing and mobilization, the Mass Mobilisation Department is tasked with growing supporter base of GPSEA to strengthen campaign impact, fundraising goals and GPSEA's influence within public discourse.

Reporting to the regional Mass Mobilisation Director, the Mass Mobilisation Country Manager (MMCM) is responsible for inspiring, leading and supervising the high quality performance of the Mass Mobilisation team in their specific country.

As a core role and core department the MMCM will be required to lead planning and development of country-specific mass mobilisation units in collaboration with mass mobilisation coordinators within the various disciplines. This includes collaboration with the mass mobilisation regional team, including other MMCMs and regional experts in digital grassroots, data and online technology organizing and mobilization and the Mass Mobilisation Director.

The MMCM will be required to work closely with other line-managers from the Fundraising, Communications and Campaigns units to develop processes for seamless cross-organizational solutions in integrated digital and grassroots organizing and mobilizations within this country.

Qualifications and Skills Required (Selection Criteria):

- An passion experience in organizing and leading a dynamic high performance mobilization/advocacy team
- Strong written and verbal communication skills in English and in country's (Thai, Tagalog, Bahasa Indonesian) language
- Experience in planning, drafting, monitoring and evaluation of strategic plans, including budgeting, scheduling and workflow management
- Experience in high level management reporting and analysis on organizational growth and performance, with a data investment metrics
- Sound knowledge of digital and grassroots organizing, mobilization, and campaigning
- Experience in working within a dynamic and fast paced environment with competing priorities, including managing multiple projects with competing deadlines
- Commitment to Greenpeace values of non-violent direct action and the ability to represent Greenpeace and build coalitions
- A flexible approach to work, including ability and willingness to undertake nationwide and international travel as required

Interested candidates are requested to write a letter of introduction explaining why you are qualified for the position, and fill up the Application Form which is downloadable from http://www.greenpeace.org/seasia/ph/en/engage and email to the closing date to: **jobs.ph@greenpeace.org**

Only the shortlisted candidates will be notified.

Deadline for applications: March 4, 2012

Transcontinental Manpower Services Inc.

URGENT HIRING!!!
One Day Process

Financial Advisors
Male/Female, 22-35 years old
A graduate of any 4 year course
Computer literate and willing to be trained

HR/Recruitment Personnel (Medical Allowance)
Male/Female a graduate of BS Psychology or equivalent
20-28 years old
Computer Literate
With experience is an advantage

Mat Insurance Advisors
Male/Female, 22-28 years old
A graduate of any 4 year course
(1st year college level can be considered provided with sales background)
Computer literate and willing to be trained

Promodisers
Female 18 years old and above
At least college level
Willing to be trained
With proper appearance

Accounting Clerk (Insurance)
Female 21-30 years old
A graduate of accountancy or equivalent
Preferably with experience in Insurance/Banking
With at least 6 months experience
Willing to be trained

For interested applicants call us at
8404-54 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Philippines
or call tel. **8729-0132/8729-0133** (Accounting_tmsi@yahoo.com)
Website: www.transcontinental.com.ph

EXECUTIVE DECISIONS INC FIRM 2012 REQUIREMENTS

- **Graphic Artist** – Someone with a real talent for illustrations, both by hand and computer-aided. He is expected to produce eye-more-on and paste layouts, but genuinely innovative or creative wo-dimen. Knowledge in web design and 3D rendering software is a plus.
- **IT Jr. Web Administrator** – Computer proficient, especially MS... can design/maintain website updating, creative and self motivated, must have knowledge in PC System, servers database and networks, knowledgeable in web design, presentation and office softwares and can design webpages and graphics for online site.
- **Associate Marketing Counselors** – (also known as Service Associate, Managers) To do account servicing work, graduate of any marketing or business course, adept in marketing conceptualization, planning and execution, computer literate in Microsoft Windows program, proficient in oral and written communication and willing to go on local travel.

General Qualifications:
Male, preferably not over 30 years of age, graduate of a college course, has very good communication skills, computer literate, organized, proactive attitude, hard-working, responsible, pursues own professional interests, honest, can work with minimum supervision, team player, pleasing, at flexible personality, willing to go on local travel and preferably can drive.

Walk-ins welcome to:
The Marketing Director
Executive Decisions Integrated Marketing Communications Firm (EDIMCO)
2nd Floor, Pama Bagumbo Building, 512 Kamuning Road, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 440-0366, 410-0616, 440-0467

Work in a leading Supply Chain Company this 2012.

Our company belongs to the Top 1000 Corporations and we are currently looking for goal-oriented and dynamic individuals with can-positive-ble-coming professionals!
Current openings are as follows:

You are Welcome Officer
ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT I-II
Must be a graduate of Accountancy, Finance course or equivalent
0-6 mos. old, at least 1-2 yrs work experience
Exposure with General Accounting, FS, Liquor

PAYROLL ASSISTANT I-II
Must be a graduate of Accounting course or equivalent
0-6 mos. or at least 1-2 yrs work experience in the same capacity. Proficient in payroll procedures and computations. Those part time and good computation records may be considered.

ABOT ASSISTANT II
Must be a graduate of Management, Accountancy, Finance course or equivalent
At least 1yr. with relevant experience in Accounts, auditing and cost management

HR DRIVER
Must be a graduate of Technology, Home Economics/Engineering or equivalent
Minimum 25 yrs. with driving background in Towing, CID and Labor Relations

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Must be a graduate of any Management, Engineering, Finance course or equivalent
Must be self-motivated, with strong entrepreneurial character

TECHNICAL/DRIVER
SAFETY MANAGEMENT ASST.
Graduate of Engineering or Nursing course or equivalent
1-2 yrs. exp.
Must be willing to work from 10PM to 6AM or anytime
Experience in Manufacturing/Production is an advantage but not required

PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR (1) and OPERATIONS SUPERVISOR (1)
Graduate of Industrial Engineering or equivalent
2-3 yrs. exp.
Male, at least 1-2 years experience in a Production / Manufacturing set-up in the same capacity

Interested Applicants may send their resumé with picture and TOR at **salvarico.hrjp@gmail.com** or **salvarico@hrjp.ph**

MegaMobile

SENIOR APPLICATIONS/ PLATFORM DEVELOPER

- College graduate of BS Computer Science or Computer Engineering, Physics or Math, Statistics or Business with units in Computer Science
- 1-2 year work experience
- Proficiency in the following technical skills:
  Languages/Scripts: PHP, Java, MySQL, C / C++, HTML
  Preferred Skills: System Design, Service Design, Networking Skills, Computer Repair, Practical knowledge on operating other productivity tools
- Ability to follow timelines and ensure timelines of delivery
- Able to creatively execute instructions
- Level-headed, Conscientious, Professional, Self-motivated, knowledge-seeker & can communicate effectively with clients and must be a team player
- Immediate availability for hiring

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

wahire@inquirer.net
digital@mymegamobile.com

INQUIRER

The country's most widely read and circulated newspaper is in need of:

SYSTEMS ANALYST / PROGRAMMER

- College graduate preferably Computer Science or Computer Engineering
- Background in Computer Hardware and networking
- At least 1 year experience in this job or jobs leading to it
- Proficient in VB Scripting, Perl Scripting, PHP or other web programming tools
- Skills knowledge in Visual Basic and PowerBuilder
- Proficient in MS-SQL 2K, database and with knowledge in Sybase SQL related database management system

ELECTRICIAN

- College graduate preferably Electrical Engineering or equivalent vocational course
- At least 1 year experience in this job or jobs leading to it
- Knowledge of basic electrical principles
- Knowledge of basic computer operations

REPORTER

- College graduate preferably major in Journalism or Mass Communication or Economics
- At least 2 years experience in this job or jobs leading to it
- Computer Skills, Communication Skills, Writing Skills, Interviewing Skills, Research Skills)
- Willing to take on multimedia tasks

PHOTOGRAPHER

- College graduate preferably Fine Arts or Journalism (All Mass Communication major in Photography)
- At least 1 years relevant experience as photographer in Publication or News agencies (Broadsheet or Magazine)
- 1st Consistent, Visual Literacy, Creative

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

Attn: Ms. Ma. Antonette Gabriela Arenal
Human Resources Manager, Shaw Inquirer Inc.
3 Doña Magdalena Building, Doña Magdalena cor.
J. Clavo Streets, Kapitolyo, Pasig City
Fax No. 637-7777 local 2222
Email: resumes.inq@inquirer.com.ph

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Send resumé to
workingpeople@inquirer.com.ph

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WANTED

BS GRADUATES IN THE FIELD OF:

1) CIVIL ENGINEERING / ARCHITECTURE

2) Industrial Technology (DRAFTING)

Selected applicants will undergo extensive training in Structural Detailing!

Please apply in person with your RESUMÉ on February 20 thru 24, 2012 ONLY

HSD PHILIPPINES PRIVATE LIMITED COMPANY

OFFICE ADDRESS: 2ND FLOOR, BUILDING 6, SAN LAZARO COMPOUND, BRGY. PINYAHAN, QUEZON CITY, PHILIPPINES

TEL NOS. (+632) 434-3561 / 924-8791 FAX (+632) 928-9488 E-MAIL hsdphilippines@yahoo.com

SAVEWAY

World Health Organization

Western Pacific Region

VACANCY NOTICE

Technical Officer

(Maternal and Child Health), NPO (MNCH/CB), HG-C, (NCPH)

HYDROGRAPHIC SURVEYORS AND GEOPHYSICIST

get hired

An established Philippine company branching out to related business opportunities is in need of the following staff for various projects based in the Philippines and abroad.

SALES ENGINEER FOR HAZARDOUS WASTE TREATMENT SYSTEMS

Male or female, not more than 45 yrs. old, preferably Environmental Engineer with experience in wastewater treatment, tools, materials, control and air quality control.

SALES ENGINEER FOR LIGHTING

Male, not more than 45 yrs old, must be a graduate of Electrical Engineering. Experience in electrical projects sales industry. Minimum 2 years in lighting technology and electrical building materials and products.

SALES ENGINEER FOR ELECTRICAL

Male or female, not more than 45 yrs. old, licensed Electrical/ Mechanical Engineer. Experience in handling either power, energy, transformers, panel builders, switch gears or utilities projects.

Interested applicants may e-mail their comprehensive resumé with recent photo to: *hrd_OTTEST@yahoo.com*

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Health
CENTRAL OFFICE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (REI)

The Department of Health, through its Central Office Bids and Awards Committee (COBAC), invites Individual Consultants to apply for Eligibility and Shortlisting for the hereunder project funded by the Government of the Philippines (GOP):

Name of Project	Brief Description of the Project	Type	Approved Budget for the Contract (Php) Peso
Hiring of Graphic Artist for the Development, Conceptualization, Design of IEC Materials	To facilitate/expedite timely delivery of high quality, creative and up-to-date IEC various materials in various formats of priority programs/projects of the Department of Health (DOH) or as determined by National Center for Health Promotion (NCHP) or DOH Management	Individual	Php 500,000.00

1. The DOH now calls for the submission of eligibility documents. Interested Individual Consultants must submit their Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply for eligibility and shortlisting for the above consulting project on or before 27 February 2012, 10:30 A.M. at G/F Building 6, COBAC Conference Room, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Deadline of submission for eligibility documents shall be on the date of the opening of the Eligibility Documents, 27 February 2012, 10:30 A.M. at G/F Building 6, COBAC Conference Room, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated based on a non-discriminatory "pass/fail" criterion.
2. The COBAC shall draw up the short list of consultants from those who have submitted eligibility documents/expressions of interest and have been determined as eligible in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act (RA) 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the IRR of RA 9184, and is restricted, to Filipino citizens or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) ownership belonging to citizen of the Philippines. In accordance with Revised IRR of R.A. 9184, only bids from short listed consultants will be opened. The contract will be awarded to the Highest Rated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.
4. The criteria and rating system for the evaluation of bids shall be provided in the instructions to Bidders.
5. The evaluation procedure to be adopted shall be Quality Cost Based Evaluation (QCBE). Bids whose technical proposals pass the minimum technical rating of 70% shall have its financial proposals opened and evaluated.
6. Interested consultants may obtain further information from the Department of Health at the address given below from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Individual consultancy should download and print the REI at the PHILGEPS website, (www.philgeps.net) or through its landline at 900-52-01 to 30.

The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, to reject all Bids and may not award the contract without incurring any liability and make no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of the bidding if the physical and economic conditions have significantly changed so as to render the project no longer economically, financially or technically feasible as determined by the DOH, if the project is no longer necessary as determined by the DOH and when the funds for the program/ project/activity has been withheld or reduced through no fault of the DOH at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

COBAC SECRETARIAT
Department of Health
2nd Floor, Building 6, San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz, Manila 1003
Tel. No. 651-7800 Loc. 1623 – 1627, Telefax No. 741-9779
Website: www.doh.gov.ph; E-mail: cobacsecretariat@yahoo.com.ph

Approved by:

(Sgd.) HERMILIO T. GARO, MD, MPH, DPSM-II
Assistant Secretary of Health
Chairperson, COBAC

Abt Associates, Inc., an international development organization composed of a multi-disciplinary group of dedicated professionals who provide technical assistance, research, analysis, and practical training services to clients from sole countries, seeks candidates for upcoming USAID-funded health projects in the Philippines. Please note, all **positions are contingent on successful award.**

Project Director, Governance: primarily responsible for project management and the development of overall strategies to improve the capacity of LGUs to sustainably provide, finance, and manage quality of health services in the Philippines. Has extensive experience managing health or local government programs, knowledge of LGU financing for health, health finance, policy issues, and familiarity with key influencers in national and local government required. Minimum Master's degree and 15 years' experience.

Public/Private Partnership Development Advisor: responsibilities include working with the LGUs, USAID, the private business and civil society sectors on the implementation of project activities. Proven track-record building and sustaining effective partnerships, advocating effectively and possessing a wide network of contacts in local government, civil society and the business sector. Minimum qualifications of a Master's degree & 10 years' experience.

Health Policy and Financing Advisor: responsible for leading efforts to strengthen the LGU health services through improved health financing mechanisms, involving both public and private sources. Familiarity and understanding of local government financial systems, understanding of national insurance policies and procedures and private insurance providers is required. Knowledge of key decision makers in the DOH and PhilHealth highly desirable. Minimum qualifications of a Master's degree & 10 years' experience.

Service Delivery Advisor: responsible for developing strategies to strengthen health services providers. Leads the development of training and performance improvement systems, provides technical and programmatic support to LGUs, and is responsible for disseminating research findings and state of the art tools. Prior experience in international health programs and extensive clinical training are required. Minimum qualifications of a Master's degree and 10 years' experience required.

Senior Finance Manager/Accountant: supports the financial management of the project, including budget monitoring, financial reporting and analysis, accounting and payroll. Performs financial reporting and analysis. Minimum Bachelor's degree in Finance, Business, or equivalent with at least 15 years' experience.

To Apply: Please email CVs and cover letters to: Philippines-Governance@abtassoc.com with the position title you are applying for (e.g. "Project Director"). You can find out more about Abt Associates, Inc. at http://www.abtassoc.com/.

AGA & SON CONST

CIVIL/PROJECT ENGINEER

NOW HIRING
KITCHEN DESIGNER

UNHCR Philippines

Multiple Vacancy Notice (4 posts)

Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

Vacancy Notice No. 10/2012 — **Position No.** 10/2012
Post Title: Protection Associate — **Post Level:** NO-B
Contract Duration / Type of Appointment: Fixed-term Appointment — **Duty Location:** Davao

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Assist the Field Office in undertaking regular needs assessment & assessment and protection monitoring activities;
2. Monitor the situation in the area of Mother Humanitarian Action Plan and other relevant UNHCR and humanitarian reports and provide input to the Field Office;
3. Monitor and supervise the implementation of UNHCR programmes including the delivery of all assistance items and monitoring of international and local partners;
4. Participate in UNHCR Field Office meetings;
5. Keep regular contact with local authorities and implementing partners as requested by the Field Office;
6. Perform other duties as may be required;
7. Contribute to the preparation of output and progress reports by providing inputs, statistics and analysis;
8. Assist in administrative tasks as required such as preparation of reports and meeting minutes, filing, and maintaining of records and correspondence;
9. Maintain good relations with persons of concern to UNHCR;
10. Actively participate in the Working Groups on protection;
11. Assist and act on the instructions of the Officer-in-Charge in connection with their functions by and the best satisfaction;
12. Any other duties as required.

Qualification Requirements:

Education and Skills: Completion of secondary education; post-secondary certification/degree in international law, political science and economics. Communication skills. Computer skills.

Work Experience: Minimum 2 years of relevant professional experience in the field.

Languages: Fluency in English and Tagalog. Working knowledge of another relevant UN language is an asset.

Generic Skills:

Good reading and technical research and writing skills
Good knowledge of basic principles and practices of human rights law
Good knowledge of refugee law and protection principles
Experience in working with community work among refugees etc.
- Demonstrable ability and adaptability in effectively work in emergency and/or complex operations within a multi-cultural environment in a multicultural and diverse country;
- Proven interpersonal, negotiating and negotiating skills; proven political and communication in challenge with interpersonal and cultural issues. Proven ability in analysis, negotiation and mediation;
- Cultural sensitivity; interviewing;
- Very good analytical and communication abilities.

Vacancy Notice No. 10/2012 — **Position No.** 10/2012
Post Title: Field Safety Officer — **Post Level:** NO-B
Contract Duration / Type of Appointment: Fixed-term Appointment — **Duty Location:** Cotabato

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Provide the head of Office with advice on all security related matters pertinent to the UNHCR Standard Operations of staff safety, safety of Persons of Concern to UNHCR, and safety of UNHCR premises and facilities;
2. Liaise with security coordinators and cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, and authorities and other relevant stakeholders as required;
3. Undertake assessment missions under the direction of the supervisor and take an active part in security missions in cooperation with security officers from other UNHCR offices;
4. Prepare timely reports, analysis of changes and recommendations, assessments, evaluations, and statistics in the field of Office and submit all as the situation demands reports;
5. Provide staff and implementing partners with security advice, briefings and briefings on security measures;
6. Any other responsibilities/duties deemed necessary or as delegated by the Officer-in-Charge/Head of UNHCR Office.

Qualification Requirements:

Education and Skills: Completion of secondary school; undergraduate degree in a related field is an advantage. Specialized training in management, safety or military management, or the provision of peacekeeping services is an asset. Computer literacy. Excellent analytical, interpersonal and critical thinking is essential, as is the ability to maintain high quality output in stressful and demanding circumstances. Excellent communication skills, both written and oral, including public speaking skills. Excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills and the ability to work collaboratively within a team environment is necessary. Excellent computer skills are additionally required.

Experience: Minimum of 5-10 years of professional experience in progressively responsible positions in a National or Local Police Force, Military Force, or Private Security Firm. Demonstrated security related experience in a related field (e.g. legal, research analyst, ...) may be considered. Computer knowledge of the operational and administrative challenges faced in refugee and/or internally displaced person operations. Minimum of 2 years of previous ability to deal with persons of concern to UNHCR is an asset. A proven ability to deal with persons of concern to UNHCR is a necessary and communication material in demanding working conditions. Has also been experience in the management of personnel, in the organizing, development, and conducting of trainings and briefings and other material.

Languages: Excellent knowledge of English and Tagalog. Knowledge of Maguindanaon is also an advantage. Ability to translate.

Generic Skills:

- Knowledge of UNHCR and its mandate;
- Experience in UN Security and Safety Management either with UNHCR or in the context of working with the UN;
- Firm Arms and Firearms Training.

Vacancy Notice No. 10/2012 — **Position No.** 10/2012
Post Title: Driver — **Post Level:** G-3
Contract Duration / Type of Appointment: Fixed-term Appointment — **Duty Location:** Cotabato

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Drives official vehicles for the transport of authorized personnel and delivery and collection of mail, documents and other items;
2. Makes official arrangements for transport and handling of baggage and documents by carriers;
3. Responsible for the day-to-day maintenance of the assigned vehicle, checks oil, water, battery, brakes, tires, etc., performs minor repairs and arranges for other repairs and maintenance as required; keeps vehicle clean;
4. Logs official trips, daily mileage and consumption of vehicle operating etc.;
5. Ensures that the rules required by rules and regulations are kept in case of emergencies or accidents;
6. Performs other tasks as required.

Qualification Requirements:

Education and Skills: High school graduate or equivalent; knowledge of driving laws and regulations and ability to obtain vehicle permit.

Work Experience: 3 years of previous work experience relevant to the position.

Languages: English. Tagalog is an asset.

Generic Skills:

- Demonstrable ability and adaptability in effectively work in emergency and/or complex operations within a multi-cultural environment in a multicultural and diverse country;
- Proven interpersonal, negotiation and negotiating skills; proven political and communication in challenge with interpersonal and cultural issues. Proven ability in analysis, negotiation and mediation; cultural sensitivity; interviewing;
- Very good analytical and communication abilities.

Vacancy Notice No. 10/2012 — **Position No.** 10/2012
Post Title: Driver — **Post Level:** G-3
Contract Duration / Type of Appointment: Fixed-term Appointment — **Duty Location:** Davao

Duties and Responsibilities:

1. Handles and delivers mail, documents and other items in connection with field duties and reports to the Protection Officer;
2. Informs and gets to the point responsible from IDPs refugees within the IDPs community and from the local authorities, as required;
3. Exchanges problems issues with authorities concerned including post cases concerning refugees;
4. Maintains liaison with camp officials, other officials concerned with protection issues, including those in political aspects;
5. Assists in assessing problems and providing assistance to the refugee caseload in general;
6. Compiles monthly statistics of refugees in services rendered in the report;
7. Serves as interpreter and translator when needed;
8. Performs other duties as required.

Qualification Requirements:

Education and Skills: Completion of secondary education; post-secondary certification/degree in international law, political science and economics. Communication skills. Computer skills.

Work Experience: Minimum 2 years of relevant professional experience in the function.

Languages: Fluency in English and Tagalog. Working knowledge of another relevant UN language is an asset.

Generic Skills:

Good reading and technical research and writing skills
Excellent knowledge of the law of the Philippines as relevant to human rights and social protection required
Good knowledge of UNHCR's protection mandate
Experience in working with community work among refugees etc.
- Demonstrable ability and adaptability in effectively work in emergency and/or complex operations within a multi-cultural environment in a multicultural and diverse country;
- Proven interpersonal, negotiation and negotiating skills; proven political and communication in challenge with interpersonal and cultural issues. Proven ability in analysis, negotiation and mediation;
- Cultural sensitivity; interviewing;
- Very good analytical and communication abilities.

How to apply for Eligible Internal Candidates:

Please apply online through Inspira by following vacancy announcement number against the corresponding position title.

Interested persons should submit their application to:
3rd Floor, UN Common Premises, 1253 Lapasan Street
Lapasan, Cagayan de Oro City, Philippines
Office Tel. No. (088) 858-2100
Email: philma@unhcr.org

Applications will not be acknowledged. Only the successful candidate will be notified of the outcome of the selection process.

Please visit our website at http://www.unhcr.org.ph

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- Familiar with all Social agreements in publishing industry

MIFI

Company Background:

Market Insighting and Foresighting Inc. took its way in providing innovative insights that support to the ever-growing consumer market demands. Its core experience in Pharmaceutical Marketing brings its highly responsive and motivated team of professionals who made it one of the leading research agencies in the field. The outlining of the health care and beauty in every Filipino family has been the inspiration to its undaunted desire to constantly make unique services to its clients.

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- Fluency in English, other foreign languages will be a plus
- Applicants must be willing to work in Cebu/Mati, Pampanga

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Please submit resume or picture, NBI & personal credentials
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QUALIFICATIONS:

- Responsible for maintenance and monitoring of operations such as file server, firewall and DHCP server
- Desktop support, installations of PC casing and LAN configuration
- Responsible for backing up data from servers and emails from mail browser
- Responsible for relocation, migration, cabling, new installation, upgrades and network infrastructure
- Must be knowledgeable with MAC software and Application
- Enforces computer policies

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

QUALIFICATIONS:

- College Graduate
- Excellent presentation skills
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Attentive to details with good coordination skills
- Good interpersonal skills
- With effective selling techniques

Interested applicants may send their resume with picture via: TDF.ai.sales.hrd@gmail.com or salesrecruit@hkpi.ph. For inquiries you may contact: 564-400-8825 and look for Rachel Ramirez.

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PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SINGLE WINDOW MOA SIGNING

The heads of various government agencies involved in the Philippine National Single Window (NSW) sign a memorandum of agreement operationalizing the project. In photo are, (from left, first row) : BOC Deputy Commissioner for MISTG Ma. Caridad P. Hamarang, BPI OIC Cammie Ma Magno, BOI Director Ursula Arrofeta, PEZA Dir. Gen. Lilia de Lima, BOC Commissioner Rufy Biazon, SRA Administrator Regina Martin, NTC Deputy Commissioner Delilah Delos, FDA Regulatory Officer Rhoda Mendoro, MARINA Deputy Director Arlene Ramores, (2nd row from right) DOH MHS Head Dean Mauleón, BPI Director Cielito Ha. Baron, BAI Director Dino Nanolos, BIS Director Luis Calibosco, DFAR Regulatory Head Annella Wong, from PNRI, from DOE, Director Juan Miguel Cuna, PNP-FED Chief Raul Petrasanta, PCA Administrator Guillelo Forbes, PDEA Libre: Jose Gutierrez Jr., PPA Director Nestor Cuana, DHR Chairman Renato Richardson & BOC Collector John Simon.

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Tutuban Commercial Center celebrates its 23rd anniversary

The country's acknowledged bargain haven, Tutuban Center, will celebrate its 23rd Anniversary this coming February 21, 2012 with lots of fun and excitement as it look its path towards redevelopment and expansion.

The celebration this year will kick-off with a mall wide parade participated by Tutuban employees, tenants, business associates and guests. The morning parade will be followed by a mini-program highlighted by an All-Asian street-dance presentation. Surprise gifts and prizes await all attendees. Brunch will be served after the event.

The day will be capped by a grand Anniversary Show and Concert. Celebrity guests and Tutuban idol-winners will provide exciting entertainment for all loyal patrons. Fireworks display will literally add spark and glitter to the celebration.

As it begins its 23th year, the Commercial Building will already be Wi-Fi ready for all its savvy patrons. Renovation activities have commenced to the Tutuban Business Mall and very soon, other exciting and new components in Tutuban Center will rise amidst its all-time-winners like the year-round Night Market and the "SM" My Store" bargain concept.

Tutuban Center...from yesterdays to beyond! Truly, the Mecca of bargain shopping.

Everything. Everyday. Everyone. Only at Tutuban.

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CHILDREN INTERNATIONAL

Our client is an international non-profit organization dedicated to improving the lives of children and families living in dire poverty. Through their Sponsorship Programs, they help children in 11 countries. We are inviting well-qualified applicants for the position of:

AGENCY DIRECTOR

(for the Agency Office in Quezon City)

The Agency Director will lead a professional team and staff to strategically plan for and achieve its goals and mission. Work will entail effective planning, resource mobilization, and managing the day-to-day operations of the agency, primarily covering the implementation of social welfare services and programs.

Qualification requirements are as follows:

- Degree in Social Work or related studies; preferably with Masteral Degree
- With at least 4 years experience in a senior management role, preferably doing developmental work
- With substantial hands-on experience in managing projects, projects and people
- With experience in networking with similar organizations and in raising funds locally from corporations and individuals
- Should have a high level of knowledge and understanding of financial procedures and local laws
- With very good communication and interpersonal skills

Please forward your applications to: Institutional Synergy, Inc. (Inc/Dirs), through e-mail address: [illegible] or call on hotline February 22, 2012 (sun). We will reply only to those considered for interview.

PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Project Support Officer Opportunities

EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

- Based in the Department of Budget and Management Program Management Office
- 1-year contract
- 4 positions available

Coffey International Development is the Service Provider of the AusAID funded Philippines-Australia Public Financial Management Program (PFMP), which is a joint initiative of the Governments of Australia and the Philippines. The PFMP aims to make the government to improve the efficiency, accountability and transparency in the use of public funds in the Philippines to enable better service delivery. The program directly assists the national government to implement its comprehensive PFM reform agenda that is laid out in the [illegible] and Public Financial Management Reform Roadmap. Towards Improved Accountability and Transparency in Program Management Office (PMO) is being established to promote the overall management, monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the PFM reforms. The PMO will be located in the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). In line with this, we are seeking expressions of interest for three Project Support Officers for the PMO.

The Project Support Officers are responsible for providing efficient support to the PMO Director and Deputy Director in order to achieve the PMO's objectives and deliver its contributions in an effective manner. The successful candidates should have a good knowledge and experience across all areas of office administration, records management and logistics support with particular strength in one area. They should also have a basic understanding of government organizational structure and process, and ideally Public Financial Management. The successful candidate will a competitive remuneration package with a salary of PHP 43,000 per month.

Deadline for submitting applications is 5pm on the 29 February 2012.

Recruitment is reserved for citizens of the Philippines. Women are encouraged to apply.

For a detailed job and person specification and essential application procedures, please visit: **www.careers.coffey.com** and search for: COFF-2332.

For more information contact Ian PFMP HR Recruitment Officer via [illegible] quoting COFF-2332.

coffey international development

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ACCOUNTING SUPERVISOR

Requirements and Qualifications:

- Degree in Accountancy
- 2 year work experience in accounting and/or Finance Department
- Knowledgeable in BIR Regulations and relevant tax matters (NIRC, VERM, PVAT, and BSS regulations as well as other government agencies
- MYOB know-how is an advantage
- Proficient in Financial Statement preparation
- Organized and detail-oriented in documentation and recording
- Excellent, bottle and persuasive communication skills
- Computer and English proficient
- Passionate, competent, hard-working, highly organized professional with excellent ability to prioritize, multi-task, and exercise sound judgment and discretion
- Ability to learn and grow with the company
- Overseas work experience is a great advantage

WE ENCOURAGE WALK-IN APPLICANTS!

Please look for Ms. Pam Cepeda
email your resume to pamela.cepeda@gotransit.net.ph
For questions, please call (02) 634-7388
Office hours: 9:00am-5pm Mondays-Fridays

We a part of the leading transit advertising company in the Philippines!

The Sustainable Health Improvements through Empowerment and Local Development (SHIELD) Project, a USAID-funded health project collaborating with the Department of Health of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (DOH-ARMM) is seeking interested parties to undertake an evaluation study of specific project strategies and approaches that had been utilized.

Midwife in Every Community of ARMM (MECA) Project. The DOH-ARMM has embarked on a program to deploy massive number of Rural Health Midwives in underserved and unserved barangays of the Region. The 380 contractual midwives were retooled before their field deployment. These MECA Midwives were deployed and are serving different areas of the region during the last two years.

Reaching Every Barangay (REB++). Originally used as a strategy to improve the immunization coverage, REB++ is now utilized in the ARMM to scale up and provide an integrated family planning and maternal and child health services. The approach is best implemented particularly in the hard-to-reach and conflict-afflicted areas where regular service delivery is highly curtailed.

Organization Development and Management System of DOH-ARMM. Assessment of ARMM health sector with particular focus on policies, organizational and governance issues.

Interested parties must have demonstrated track record in assessment or evaluation studies. Familiarity of the working environment in ARMM or actual work experience in ARMM is an added advantage.

Submission of Letter of Intent is accepted through electronic mail addressed to the Chief of Party, **Dr. Leonardo A. Alcantara** [lalcantara@thkl.org] on or before **01 March 2012.** Please specify the area of interest/s. Attach your organization's credentials. Only short-listed applicants will be notified and invited to an orientation conference on **12 March 2012.**

Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation

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The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is now hiring..

CONTRACTUAL CARD DEALERS

Qualifications:

1. Pleasing personality
2. 21-30 years old
3. College level (must have completed at least 60 units)
4. Minimum height of 5'2" for female and 5'6" male
5. Excellent communication skills

Salary range is from P20,000 to P26,000.

Those interested may apply Mondays to Fridays between 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please bring your resumé with your recent colored 2x2 photo and transcript of records to:

The Recruitment Section
Human Resource and Development Department
PAGCOR House, 1330, Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Manila

Access MOBILE

is in urgent need of the following:

Mobile Content Personnel

- Fresh graduates/ Entry-level applicants are also encouraged to apply
- Male or Female 20-29 years old
- 1 year experience preferably gained in a Marketing/Advertising/ Telecommunication/Mobile Solution/CRM/Mass Label Industry
- Must be aggressive, self-motivated, trustworthy and resourceful
- Must be creative, analytical, and a strategic thinker
- Has good communication, interpersonal and negotiation skills

Accounting Assistant / Bookkeeper

- Completion of a Bachelor's Degree in Finance/Accountancy/Banking or equivalent
- Minimum of 2 yrs working experience in the related field is required
- Knowledgeable in CashFlow programs
- Can analyze Financial Statements
- Knowledgeable on all government required compliance (BIR and SSS)
- With basic knowledge and practice in payroll processing, government loans, and preparation of monthly and quarterly reports to BIR, SSS, Philhealth, Pag-ibig
- Highly analytical, keen to details, result and detail-oriented, systematic, and self-driven

Interested applicants may submit their resumé with attached latest photo, official copy of Transcript of Records and other credentials to:

Office Address: Unit-1901, 88 Corporate Center, 141 Valero corner Sedeño Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati 1227
Tel. No.: +63 2 757 2198
Email add: resume@access-mobile.com

Science Week at TUP-Manila

THE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE (COS) - Technological University of the Philippines (TUP-Manila) will celebrate Science Week on February 20-24, 2012 with theme "COS: Voices for Environmental Awareness". Activities during the celebration include Inter-University Quiz in Physics and in Mathematics, Skills Challenge in Physics Laboratory and Computer Programming, Mini Chemistry, Science Film Showing, Poster Making, Physics Olympics and Biolympics, and Bike Gaming. These activities are all anchored toward environmental awareness.

The opening program for this celebration will be in the morning of February 22 after the parade and the mass celebrated for this purpose. Dr. Edgar Garcia, Executive Director of Technology Application and Promotion Institute (TAPI) of DOST will be the guest speaker.

The opening program for this celebration will be in the morning of February 22 after the parade and the mass celebrated for this purpose. Dr. Edgar Garcia, Executive Director of

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Editor Jesse Francis N. Bobcaygeon

Everyone, even God, is a salesman

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilio

DO ONE HAND, MANY HERE accomplished sales people are admired for their skills. Thanks to Big Digits and other telemarketing gurus both rural and foreign that really selling a noble profession. In the other, a reminder to others looked at as a hustler, a manipulator, or worse, the cause of many an unfounded guerilla manifestation to tell refrigerators to the bite.

Selling

Selling today has gone a long away from the door to door persuasion of selling years. I refer to a salesman here as someone who is an educator, informer, and influencer. Anyone who develops the interpersonal capabilities will likely succeed in the many roles he or she plays in life and career.

If you are a child, you don't really get to play on school days, or your parents opened a fortune for you to get good education. Therefore, they want you glued to your books and notes — not the happy books of the Ipad. If you are a person, your child, hopefully with your DNA, does not come out of the womb with a natural inclination to obey your every command or request to the daily routine you carefully map out to make your child an outstanding student and citizen. If you are among the working people, you have to contribute (but your boss has you in his calm when he wants to promote somebody). If you are on the street now and hunting for a decent job, you have to compete with hundreds of others who have the same skills and credentials as you.

Those are many more situations call for extraordinary salesmanship. We get signed (once), you get to sell yourself. Performance does not speak for itself. You have to sell to your boss the strange idea that you are a great performer. Even after consistently proving yourself, you have to sell — influence, educate and convince others.

Is God a salesman?

Through the different religions that we explore and celebrate God, Allah likewise says that God, "presents us to believe that He exists, created the world, is all good, is all knowing, and loves us. Without a shred of proof to a scientific of traditional OR-type evidence that all of this is true, no evidence Him, adore Him, and worship Him."

According to Steven, God is probably the greatest salesman because the least He prospects us kindly instead of using traditional sales techniques. God offers us "300-degree family-member experience" that is Personal, Proactive, Perpetual and Protective." He further gives free lessons why none other person can't sell. "They have working investing to us. They cannot promise their good, and invites to a compelling fashion. They believe that we have done their job if they get prospects to the what they are offering. (The fact is, they have to sell in love with it.) They believe selling is Destiny other than endorse when they are willing responsible to others. They don't bother to coax the prospect. (They're on persons, paid with the commissions they get.) They don't promise all of the time it is (because we.)

Lesson from God

It seems that the basic approach to a sales prospect is to "convince" him to accept what I have owns from the great idea of simply being a "supplier" to satisfy the customer's need.

Let me explain this lesson from God the salesman in the context of a job applicant and employer. You are the supplier of the skills needed by your customer, the employer. Your "product" is the "300-degree family-member experience" that is Personal, Proactive, Perpetual and Protective." To the employer, this is what you have to sell yourself. Here's how to do it best.

- *First, understand what you are selling.* You'll likely succeed in selling yourself to the employer if you clearly understand what value you will bring to their table. It sound here maybe a salesman is product knowledge. Instead, your what skills, competencies, and motivations you have that will make you create great value for your employer. That value is what you have to learn. Here's how you it as you explain what you are offering.

- *Understand your customer.* In your homework. Search and research information about the prospective employer, their vision, mission, values, goals. The key people, and the culture of the job you are interested in. Doing this will make you sharp and sound and without basic information about the company and the job does not speak well of a job applicant.

- *Articulate the customer relationship.* A great salesman usually puts the interests of the customer first. In a job applicant, see this salesmanship technique. In each interview, you have the chance to educate, kindly and easy to talk with. If they ask for more information and clarification, answer them promptly or as you promise. Keep yourself accessible for more calls or meetings. Don't promote them to get you get a call-back, interview, or any follow-ups. Always operate a desire to contribute value to their business.

- *Make a successful sales call.* As a job applicant, you are selling yourself. Start on the right foot figuratively. Have a clean, but harmonious haircut that will attract your prospective employer's interest. Instead of dressing personal dots, highlight your professionalism that they need. During the interview, appear in proper attire and let them see the benefits of having you in closing the sale, summarize why you are why they are looking for, ask for the next step, also to contact for meeting because, or what more information you need to submit, etc.

- *Stay with customer relationship.* Anticipate competition, and over-objections, or misunderstanding during the hiring process. If you have a panel interview, answer if a panel member to one with no-giving you. Try to answer all the skeptics by assuring them that you can and will deliver the value. Use critical incidents or issues you encountered in the past, how you dealt with drawbacks, or such as in school. If salary is a reservation, negotiate that before simply accepting their offer.

- *Persist for the long-term.* Once you get the job you want, continue to build long-lasting relationships with your bosses, peers and subordinates. What now on the job, help your bosses feel that they made a good decision of hiring you. Let them see that you make good on your promise during the job interview. As you may forget, you have your competitive edge and marketability by sharpening your skills and enhancing your relationships within the company and with industry. Keep your options open for opportunities within or outside your company.

- *Develop a long-term career plan.* Understand that you are not to lie, what you want to do, if it's not for the money. People who feel good about themselves usually do good, and people who do good usually feel good about themselves, so says Jim Blanchard. Look forward to career fulfillment and work at it. Don't just take any job or any company that will hire you. If you say it won't give you the satisfaction and years of achievement that you want. You can usually get it if you plan for it. Never leave the planning of your career to any parties or contractors.

Salesmanship is not all hyped, guile and lip service. Successful career persons have time and again used their relationship with others to get what they want and to achieve they want.

Regardless of your choices career, including that of being a great parent or grandparent, you can do here when you do it you are one salesmanship. Often, in life and career, we bypassed many roles, the least of which are at a minimum wage job, working at a business and personal consultant, or a strategic technocrats do not move forward, we can gain more momentum if we play this role of a consultant, educator and influencer. As we must move self-fulfillment, we tend to become a focused spiritual. I should know, because I played all these roles. Of course, I enjoy simply being an employee.

I don't remember who said it first, but "an optimist expects his dream to come true; a pessimist suspects his nightmares to."

(Ernie serves in various capacities as the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), Employer Confederation of the Philippines (ECOP) and the People Management Association of the Philippines (PMAP) and other professional and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In 2011, he was given recognition as Outstanding Pinoy Sought Management (OPSM) and received "Best Management Columnist of the Year" (for his Sunday Inquirer column.) In PMAP, where he was President in 2009, he is also Chairman and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Concern Center, a human resource consulting firm. His new books, "Life's Big Issues!" and "Life's Big Lies!" are now available in book stores. He can be reached at ernie_cecilio@yahoo.com.)

All about love and service

L-EARNING MOMENTS

Tita Estela Pinongcos

RECENTLY I RECEIVED AN SMS message from Miss Estelle who spearheads the Metro Pacific Leadership Academy. He was thanking me for supporting a concert at the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra that I'd attended recently at the church of the Gesu, site de San Antonio. It was a fund raising campaign held initiated which meant to solicit financial assistance to help the children of a photo Bradbury and other victims of natural calamities.

I know Ivy as a good friend of my sister's (Miss Jane, Agent) having taught in the same school as her in Miss's hires. We initially talked about our professions, but it was discovering that because she is a teacher that her passion is a leader that have mentored me meeting him was a gift.

Upon reading his text message, I felt more like it should have been the other way around. I felt I needed help to money of my countrymen made me see him as a role model — someone who sees people suffer and generously moves people to following their suffering with love and service. But consider the best qualities of a Filipino in overcome a human being — someone who does not just "sit and wait" but moves to get things done.

Face to Face with Victims

His opening address next is all to express my suffering during time he missed his mother who'd died, he then described this until his visit to different areas in Cagayan de Oro. He spoke about the people he'd met there and how they look at the least, a member of their families in the unexpected flood. He pointed to powerful words what he's been and felt. As he spoke, a tech director moves in the audience. He even use lessen with his a considerable amount of love and service.

Concert in Church

The concert was beautiful, performed with the backdrop of the church's altar. Ivy mentioned that everyone — from the lowest steps to the mentioned artistes, to the conductor and members of the orchestra gave their services for free. It seemed amazingly appropriate that their talent will be used again in the very spot where everyday, the sacrifice of Holy Mass is offered.

I have been a quiet, raving fan of the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra, for since years. I have seen their portraits at the Cultural Center of the Philippines, the Philippine Life auditorium and the Meralco Life Theater many times before the aforementioned concert. And as reported, their music undivided me as well as, it would seem, my fellow concert-goers.

I attended the concert with my 28-year-old son, who remarked that among people like him would be the most distant to the music, beautiful seasons, if the strings were not so broad. He is a music lover himself — he sings well and loves to "jam" (do they still say that?) with his friends — but he noted his one range. And indeed, as I looked around, I noted that most of the audience were my age. So the young people reading this, you have to see you're the only ones out there.

He ended the night by having dinner at The Fort, where are headed were food — a fitting intermezzo to the dramatic evening of music.

Volunteer as Hero

This meaningful episode supports De Philippine Girls Inspirers Choirs of the "volunteer" at the core of the case. We are aware that volunteers from all walks of life — those who are in need, those who have just enough and those who have a lot to give, have come forward when it was needed to offer a helping hand. We know there are many Ways around us in that article be a volunteer to them. I know this Ivy may feel uncomfortable about being praised as my friend, predecessor I. Then again, on behalf of my family and our country, we salute and thank you.

(Tita Doris Pompee is the President and CEO of the Ella Enterprise Development Consulting, an investment promoter of Organization Development and Training, solutions in the ASEAN region. These solutions include strategy development and execution, managing change, brand thought, "young" management, innovation and human resource systems. For your inquiry feedback, kindly email following: indonesiabank.com.ph, or fax: 536-2394. For other inquiries, please call 536-3213/536-3131.)

YouCube: Broadcast yourself via your work desk

By Steven Austin

THINK ABOUT THE OBJECTS you have at your office cubicle that you wouldn't find on your nearby colleague's space. Go there! Good. Whether that love to a funny guy you received from last year's V-D (Ugh...), a prized action figure, a memento from a trip of your trip, or a framed photo, do hold on to it, it's what makes your workspace unique.

As we established in Psychology Today (Intrigued by your desk, 01/Aug, 2009) states that your office cubicle reveals more about your character than you think. A framed picture of candy could indicate an introvert's way of dressing interactive, whereas the introvert would not display objects that would call attention.

Your cubicle may not only indicate personal interests but also a refreshing attitude at your superiors. Report these individuals to be go-getters who are ready to take on challenges and have potential to lead others.

A pitted photo could signify a co-worker's confusing personality and a decision not to stay with the company for a long, long time. (Think about being caused). Sticky notes or post-its may serve as reminders but could also point to chaos in schedule.

Whatever you choose to put on your desk (or your computer's wallpaper) could speak volumes.

Because the truth is, and whether you'd like it or not, your workspace defines you.

Your crib

An organization can be compared to a dynamic thriving individual being filled with human. Those human vary from one another, differ in space, up for city life, then, verses, burgundy red to brown for a red to may even be for someone to have a car parked in the garage.

Office cubicles are like houses arranged by employees. Some organized have different personalities, each having their own quirks, originality, decorations and preferences.

Cubicles are no sideways articles also. It is where we spend most of our working hours hunched over the paper at our desk or focused at the glaring computer screen, and where we would be easily harassed. Examples are clue outside to your left while a fuck-the-boss action figure on top of the monitor? That's it.)

Your cubicle is an extension of your identity, whether it be personal or professional-wise.

Whatever state your cubicle resides, it would certainly be interesting to take by your workplace and sit awhile, your boss. A purposeful survey desk could be a liability in ensuring that much-awaited promotion compared to a desk that boasts of meticulously arranged books, folders, in-color coordinated pens.

Interestingly, an office cubicle, like a real house, is a place where we could be ourselves. Here you can be as creative as allowed to express your personality in the workplace.

A space to thrive

According to interdisciplinary, workers who have a hand in decorating their cubicles are happier healthier and more effective at work. A study conducted by the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom show that people working in stylized (quite lively plants and pictures) are 17% more productive than those who work in plain (emotionless). Furthermore, employees sitting at ergonomic desks (where workers were allowed to design their workspaces) proved to be 30% more productive. Employees than their counterparts with minimal scores.

Think that you're ready to give your cubicle a makeover? Here are some tips on how you can make your given space work for you.

- Test your cubicle at your level of responsibility. You are the possessor of the things that are on your desk, from office supplies, personal belongings to confidential files handed to you. Keep things in their rightful places so that you will know where to find them.

- Maximize your space. Every corner of your cubicle has a purpose. Don't pile everything on just one side of your desk. Achieve balance and designate spots where you can place pens, papers, etc.

- Clear your desk before going home. Work accessories (papers). Don't wait for tomorrow because junk will just accumulate by the day.

- Schedule a monthly housekeeping. Fridays are best for doing this activity. You would throw half-consumed and stuffy for weeks because of an improved and clean desk. Plus, this activity could prove therapeutic as well.

- Indulge in your creative side. Don't be afraid to express your likes and dislikes of what could make your cubicle feel homely. But don't go overboard! Remember that you are still in the workplace.

Having a good workspace does not mean you have to be organized. As long as you are comfortable with your work routine, it will always show in your work and how you deal with your colleagues. Your cubicle may be your space, but be warned, you just might be sending a message each and every things displayed on your desk.

Gospel: Mark 2: 1-12
When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic, "Child, your sins are forgiven."

Jesus sees us

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THE TEACHING ABOUT THE ALL-SEEING GOD IS SOMEHOW shown in the Gospel's narrative about Jesus seeing the faith of the paralytic and those who helped his come to His presence. This answer is that when we think, or say or do, which may not be known, heard or seen by others or even noticed by us, is known to Jesus and also for still more reason to God who sees all in the one good. In the case of the paralytic, Jesus forgave his sins, and then eventually healed him of his sickness. Therefore, this truth about God's presence here and now which we never believing and which would never be said should be kept in mind by us Christians.

There are times when mothers want their babies to misbehave or not and know how much they are sacrificing in their jobs; they would expect the corresponding benefit from their superiors for the "hold" they put in their work through the labor the spare on their jobs. Remembering that we are the corresponding compensation and pay for their efforts. So, a lot of problems and difficulties could arise in the workplaces and among the workers. Working could then become a chore for burden and other perplexing situations in the workers' life. The lack of sensitivity of employers in superiors towards the workers' inner and outer difficulties could create problems in workplaces or sacrifice for the company's welfare, and others, could destroy the morale of the workers and leave them aching and feeling self-deep within.

The attitude of readiness to correcting others and their good intentions and the habit of appreciating the others and their good qualities should be highly desirable in the employers and management. But, even the simple ordinary workers could also develop these attitudes and habits which Jesus showed to the paralytic. What is so needed I think is for everyone to ensure that Jesus sees our hearts and everything that is within us; He always desires our healing and happiness.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

God takes us seriously

By Teresa R. Tuazon, OCDS

DO WE REALIZE THAT WORK ALSO GETS "PARALYZED" ... unable to move and to move on — because of lack of forgiveness among co-workers? The workplace is a hell of conflicts and often true our "Christianness". People offend and get offended all the time. Because people have such varying sensitivities as well as personalities and different ways of communicating and understanding, these can end with either offense or defense. Among the work, which was supposedly set our lives, to taken as an offense sometimes. The persons capability now a misplaced halfpenny could lead to a word war and wound us, and if we do not forgive those who wound us, we will not heal. This leads to loneliness which then drives with it the feeling of being left out.

Referring to today's gospel I wonder: Why did Jesus call the paralytic "child"? Was the paralytic indeed a child, or did the Lord mean something else? This gave me a clue in my encounter at forgiving.

I call a fellow worker mine — as we discussed some co-worked personality for "rude, snobby" and backstabbing — that I could be person with everyone because the easiest thing for me to do is to dislike. Even if no offender hasn't asked for forgiveness, I already forgive him or her in my heart. Forgiving wasn't to say the sin before, but to see the offender as God sees him. I'd take it to church and prayer. But when I began to see offenders as children who have shortcomings and others because they do not know when they're doing. Forgiving becomes easy. I believe in my heart that nobody — nobody — wants to "sin wrong". People "sin wrong" because in their eyes what they're doing is right. So forgive, forgive, forgive. To be children, too, "Lady is saying that God takes our words seriously." ... Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us..."

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Ma. Concepcion "Baby" Mangubat Topacio

December 8, 1938 - February 16, 2012

Her husband JOSE "BAT" JR., children, TONNIE & NESTOR, BOYET & GIGI (†), CECILE, AARON & CIELO, grandchildren, VANESSA, JOSE (†) and JONIEL, MICO (†), ANDO (†) and NIKKI, ANNIKA & ETHEL and only sister TERESITA ZITA M. BODIL, nephews and nieces, and her relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at LA FUNERARIA SIPINOSO GRAND CHAPEL, Col., Blum St., Imus, Cavite.

Interment will be on Tuesday, February 21, 2012 at the IMUS CEMETERY after the 3:00 p.m. mass at IMUS CATHEDRAL, Imus Cavite.

Zayber John B. Protacio

The partners and staff of Isla Lipana & Co., the Philippine member firm of the PwC network, condole with the family, friends, and colleagues of Tax Principal **Zayber John B. Protacio**.

Zayber peacefully joined our Creator on 17 February 2012 at the age of 44.

His loving wife, **Sally S. Protacio**, daughters **Stephanie** and **Samantha**; his mother, sister, brother, and relatives request everyone to join in praying for his eternal rest and everlasting happiness.

His remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapels and Crematorium at Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will follow at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches City on Wednesday, 22 February 2012.

pwc

Isla Lipana & Co.

ARCH. GREGORIO S. SANTIAGO, JR.

of Olongo, Bataan

Fiercefully joined his Creator on February 16, 2012

His wife Teresa, children Gina & Precious, Gregie and Charisse; brothers and sisters Consolacion (†), Aurora & Bobby, Lilia & Nelson, Tony & Vicky and Corazon (†), relatives and friends request prayers readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz-Sucat, Pandacan until February 21, 2012, when he returns home to Olongo, Bataan.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 22, 2012 at Olongo Catholic Cemetery.

Pilar Eugenia Hernandez Mariño, 85

She passed away in the grace of our Lord on February 10, 2012 in Westminster, California, after a prolonged illness. She graduated with a BA in Music from Philippine Women's University and later completed a Master's degree in English Literature from Columbia University, New York on a Fulbright scholar. Pilar was an excellent lyric soprano and a dedicated English professor at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City. She will be remembered with much love and respect by her older sister, Mary Silberman, nieces Malou Perez, Marina Perez Lee, Mary Ann Perez Scallan and Elaine Marie Magallona, brothers-in-law Frank Perez, Sy of her family members and by all the students whose lives she touched. If you want to share your memories of Pilar,

you may send your messages via email to:
yourmalou@yahoo.com

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." **(2 Timothy 4)**

CLASSIFIEDS

ICD–PHILIPPINE SECTION'S NEW FELLOWS.

Dr. Marilyn A. Luang (3rd from left), newly-installed president of the International College of Dentists (ICD)-Phil. Section is flanked from left by ICD's New Fellows who were conferred the titles for their individual contribution, during the organization's 45th Annual Convocation and Banquet held last January 29 at the EDSA Shangri-La Plaza Hotel: Drs. Alvin M. Lazarona (Service to Profession), Brig.Gen Reynaldo C. Torres (AFP), Tagumpay P. Tapawan (Service to Profession), Maria Laarni F. Serrano (Organizational Leadership and Education), Angela C. Carreon (Educating), Dr. Angelica Dr. Torres (Service to Profession), Jocelyn Dimasalang L. Tee (Service to Profession), and Miriam L. Rodolfo (Service to Profession). Past Regions I (CID-Phil. Section Service to Profession). Right photo shows Dr. Beatriz S. Tee (L), ICD-Phil. Section Immediate Past president with Honorary Fellow Joy U. Ong, Asst. Manager of Professional Relations Management Division of United Laboratories, Inc. and ICD Honorary Fellow for 2012 who was conferred the title for actively supporting the Philippine Dental Association, its chapter and affiliate societies as well as other international dental honor organizations including the ICD in all their plans, programs and advocacies, especially in the field of continuing dental education. ICD which counts 12,000 member-fellows worldwide, is a collegial organization of dentists whose inceptions date and are the best considerants to the profession earned for their accolades and recognition from their peers

PROPERTIES FOR FORECLOSURE AUCTION

Cen Group of Companies invites everyone to bid at the public auction for the foreclosure sale of the following properties:

ID No.	Location	Size	Land Area (sq.m.) / Floor Area (sq.m.)	Appraised Mortgage Loan Value	Date and Time of Auction	Price of Auction
LOT 2 Including CERTAIN AS IS Condominium Unit	Located within Antelco Corporate Exploratorium, within Brgy. Batong Buhay, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Bounded on the north side by Antelco Road, within Barangay Batong Buhay, Taguig City, with an area of 100 square meters, more or less. All corners of the said property are clearly marked. Improvements are also available. Please contact (02) 7-7000 for details.	Residential Land	1,000.00 (Total Land Area)	12,000,000	FEB. 28, 2012 10:00 a.m.	Starting bid amount of the said property is Twelve Million Pesos (P12,000,000.00)

All properties are to be sold on "As is, Where is" basis. Interested bidders are advised to conduct an independent evaluation of the property through title verification and investigation of the physical and legal condition of the property prior to the auction date.

For further information, please contact us at (02) 88-7000 (800-7777) or send an email to: foreclosedproperties@cengroup.com.ph

PROPERTIES FOR FORECLOSURE AUCTION

Cen Group of Companies invites everyone to bid at the public auction for the foreclosure sale of the following properties:

ID No.	Location	Size	Land Area (sq.m.) / Floor Area (sq.m.)	Appraised Mortgage Loan Value	Date and Time of Auction	Price of Auction
LOT 1 Block 1 Lot 1 Block 1 Lot 2 Block 1 Lot 3 Block 1 Lot 4 Block 1 Lot 5 Block 1 Lot 6 Block 1 Lot 7 Block 1 Lot 8 Block 1 Lot 9 Block 1 Lot 10 Block 1 Lot 11 Block 1 Lot 12 Block 1 Lot 13 Block 1 Lot 14 Block 1 Lot 15 Block 1 Lot 16 Block 1 Lot 17 Block 1 Lot 18 Block 1 Lot 19 Block 1 Lot 20 Block 1 Lot 21 Block 1 Lot 22 Block 1 Lot 23 Block 1 Lot 24 Block 1 Lot 25 Block 1 Lot 26 Block 1 Lot 27 Block 1 Lot 28 Block 1 Lot 29 Block 1 Lot 30 Block 1 Lot 31 Block 1 Lot 32 Block 1 Lot 33 Block 1 Lot 34 Block 1 Lot 35 Block 1 Lot 36 Block 1 Lot 37 Block 1 Lot 38 Block 1 Lot 39 Block 1 Lot 40 Block 1 Lot 41 Block 1 Lot 42 Block 1 Lot 43 Block 1 Lot 44 Block 1 Lot 45 Block 1 Lot 46 Block 1 Lot 47 Block 1 Lot 48 Block 1 Lot 49 Block 1 Lot 50 Block 1 Lot 51 Block 1 Lot 52 Block 1 Lot 53 Block 1 Lot 54 Block 1 Lot 55 Block 1 Lot 56 Block 1 Lot 57 Block 1 Lot 58 Block 1 Lot 59 Block 1 Lot 60 Block 1 Lot 61 Block 1 Lot 62 Block 1 Lot 63 Block 1 Lot 64 Block 1 Lot 65 Block 1 Lot 66 Block 1 Lot 67 Block 1 Lot 68 Block 1 Lot 69 Block 1 Lot 70 Block 1 Lot 71 Block 1 Lot 72 Block 1 Lot 73 Block 1 Lot 74 Block 1 Lot 75 Block 1 Lot 76 Block 1 Lot 77 Block 1 Lot 78 Block 1 Lot 79 Block 1 Lot 80 Block 1 Lot 81 Block 1 Lot 82 Block 1 Lot 83 Block 1 Lot 84 Block 1 Lot 85 Block 1 Lot 86 Block 1 Lot 87 Block 1 Lot 88 Block 1 Lot 89 Block 1 Lot 90 Block 1 Lot 91 Block 1 Lot 92 Block 1 Lot 93 Block 1 Lot 94 Block 1 Lot 95 Block 1 Lot 96 Block 1 Lot 97 Block 1 Lot 98 Block 1 Lot 99 Block 1 Lot 100	Lots Remaining Vacant Including Improvements, if any, Situated in the Cavite Properties Development Project, Barangay Tejero, Municipality of Trece Martires, Province of Cavite, Philippines, Covered by Transfer Certificate of Title (TCT) No. T-000000 to T-000000 of the Register of Deeds of Cavite, Bounded on the North by Lot 1, on the East by Lot 2, on the South by Lot 3, on the West by Lot 4, Containing an Area of 000 Square Meters, More or Less. All Corners of the Said Property are Clearly Marked. Improvements are also available. Please contact (02) 7-7000 for details.	Vacant Residential Lots	000 (Total Land Area)	000	Feb. 29, 2012 10:00 a.m.	Starting bid amount of the said property is Two Million Pesos (P2,000,000.00)

All properties are to be sold on "As is, Where is" basis. Interested bidders are advised to conduct an independent evaluation of the property through title verification and investigation of the physical and legal condition of the property prior to the auction date.

For further information, please contact us at (02) 88-7000 (800-7777) or send an email to: foreclosedproperties@cengroup.com.ph

dti

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following project:

Name of the Project	Supply, Delivery, Installation, Calibration, Testing and Commissioning of Four (4) Sets of Automatic Environmental Weld Spray Booth Equipment
Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 1,200,000.00
Delivery/Completion Period	within sixty (60) calendar days after receipt of Notice to Proceed

Bidders should have completed, within three (3) years from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a similar contract (similar in nature to the project) equivalent to the ABC. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the Bidding Documents, particularly, in Section II. Instructions to Bidders.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using a non-discretionary "pass/fail" criterion as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act (RA) 9184, otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Starting on February 20/21/2012 (8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.) 5th Floor, Makati Stock Exchange Building, 6767 Ayala Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila Tel. No. (632) 751-4961 Fax No. (632) 890-7013
2. Pre - Bid Conference	On February 29/21, 2012, 9:00 a.m. Venue: Conference Room, 5th Floor, Makati Stock Exchange Building, 6767 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
3. Submission & Opening of Bids	On March 07/13, 2012, 9:00 a.m. for Submission and 10:00 a.m. for Opening at the same venue as the Pre-bid Conference

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to RA 5183 and subject to Commonwealth Act 138.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested bidders from the address and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00).

It may also be downloaded free of charge from the website of the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) and the website of the Procuring Entity, provided that bidders shall pay the fee for documentation for the Bidding Documents not later than the submission of their bids.

The DTI reserves its responsibility whatsoever to corporations or individuals found to any instances involved in the bidding process.

The DTI reserves the right to accept or reject any bid, to annul the bidding process, and to waive all bids, at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

For further information, please refer to:

Mark V. Sobrevilla
Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat
Department of Trade and Industry
4/F Trade and Industry Building
361 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Telephone Nos. (632) 751-4961, fax no. (632) 890-7013
E-mail Address: marksobrevilla@gmail.com

(Sgd.) EDMUNDO C. MAGLAYA
Chairperson
Bids and Awards Committee

(PE - February 19, 2012)

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Philippines-Australia Public Financial Management Program (PFMP)

Australian AID

Request for Tender (RFT)

- Philippines-Australia Public Financial Management Program (PFMP)
- Design of Philippines Treasury Single Account (TSA)
- Manila, Philippines

The Philippines - Australia Public Financial Management Program (PFMP) is a joint initiative of the Governments of Australia and the Philippines. It directly assists the national government to implement its Philippine Public Financial Management Reform Roadmap: Towards Improved Accountability and Transparency. The overall goal of the PFMP is improvement in the efficiency, accountability and transparency of public funds use in the Philippines to enable better service delivery.

Coffey International Development Pty Ltd (Coffey) as the Service Provider of the Australia funded Philippines Australia Public Financial Management Program (PFMP) is seeking proposals from professional organisations to undertake the activity: Design of Philippines Treasury Single Account.

The detailed tender requirements and conditions could be found in the downloadable (RFT) found at **www.coffey.com/international-development/tenders**.

The successful tenderer will be required to mobilise in country in March 2012.

The project duration is nine (9) months and expected to be completed in December 2012.

PFMP will accept lodgement of Tenders by email, fax or courier at the following address: Third Floor, BHF Building, 4OE Avenue, Ortigas Centre, Pasig City 1605, PHILIPPINES. For submission of hardcopy, tenders must be received at the Manila Office of PFMP marked "Design of Philippines Treasury Single Account" not later than 3:00pm Manila time on 5 March 2012 (Monday). Invitees to the submission of the PFMP Program Manager. For electronic submissions, tenders must be submitted via to Ivonne_Mendiola@pfmp.org.ph not later than 3:00pm Manila time also on 5 March 2012 (Monday).

Inquiries concerning the RFT should be made in writing prior to the close of business on 28 February 2012 (Tuesday) and sent via Ivonne_Mendiola@pfmp.org.ph. The PFMP Program Office reserves the right to provide answers to all questions to all Tenderers.

coffey International Development

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTANCY SERVICES)

PHILIPPINES
TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT FOR PHILIPPINE CDS CITIES PROJECT

CONSULTING SERVICES
Grant No. TF 098892

Expressions of Interest

The League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP) has received a financing from the World Bank through a grant from Cities Alliance to implement the "Traffic and Transport Management for Philippine CDS Cities Project". The LCP intends to apply portion of the grant to engage the services of a consulting firm. The services will be undertaken in a period of 12 months and will primarily involve development of transport and traffic management plans for selected pilot cities. Among others, the Project is expected to:

a. Enable cities to prepare and implement sustainable transport plans and traffic management plans that support the development of local economies through improved mobility of goods and services and address the current and projected demand of urbanization for efficient transport systems.
b. Develop the capability of cities and stakeholders to formulate, implement and sustain transport plans and traffic management plans that correlate and complement the development thrusts of adjacent localities given that most local economies are interrelated.
c. Enhance the CDS process by promoting the interconnectivity of priority investments within a city and city development clusters through the formulation and implementation of more efficient transport and traffic management plans.
d. Integrate and develop livable slum communities by ensuring that the necessary transport network and systems are available to provide them access to basic services and livelihood.
e. Promote environmental conservation and efficient public transportation and safety by developing the capacity of cities and stakeholders to formulate, implement, and sustain transport and traffic management plans.
f. Develop a practical approach for transport and traffic management planning for replication to other cities and municipalities.

The LCP now invites eligible consulting firms to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested consultants must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.). Consulting firms may associate to enhance their qualifications.

Consulting firms will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers (current edition).

Interested consulting firms may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered to the address below by March 5, 2012.

(Sgd.) **HON. OSCAR S. RODRIGUEZ**
National President
LEAGUE OF CITIES OF THE PHILIPPINES

Attn: MR. JEREMY PHILIPPE T. MERMOUD, Executive Director
Unit K and J, 7th Floor, Cyberone Building
Eastwood Avenue, Eastwood City Cyberpark
Bngy. Bagumbayan, Quezon City, Metro Manila
Philippines 1110

Tel: +632 470-8837
Fax: +632 470-1210
E-mail: league.cities.philippines@gmail.com

The Premier Fraud Fighters in the Government

THE CERTIFIED FRAUD Examiners Course was presented by the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) - Philippine Chapter with the cooperative efforts of the Commission on Audit (COA) Office of the Ombudsman (OMB) and Department of Justice (DOJ), and with the generous supports of the United States Agency International Development (USAID) at the COA Professional Development Center Auditorium.

Brief fifty participants from the Commission on Audit, Office of the Ombudsman and Department of Justice have successfully completed the course. They are now considered as the first batch of "fraud fighters" in the government sector.

Present also during the said event were the COA commissioner Hon. Heidi Mendoza, COA chairperson Hon. Grace Pulido-Tan, Tech Vantive Systems, Inc. president Conrado G. Dumlao, Ombudsman Hon. Conchita Carpio-Morales and chief of party, Integrity Project and managing director for International Affairs and Trade of U.S. Agency International Development (USAID) Jacqueline Williams-Bridgers.

Mr. Jacquelin Williams-Bridgers, Mission director of USAID Gang Stoltz, and the president of ACFE - Philippine Chapter Ms. Lilian S. Limsangan.

Meanwhile, Conrado G. Dumlao is the founder of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiner's Philippine Chapter. His advocacy to combat corruption is in the Philippines has paved the way to launching the ACFE International in the country. His relentless support to the anomalies does not only focus on educating the private companies but to extend it to the government sectors.

Mr. Dumlao is the president of Tech Vantive Systems, Inc. The company is awarded by the Philippine National Police as Hall of Fame Best Private Detective Agency for being the most consistent awardee in the years 1999, 2000, 2007 and 2008. TVSI is an ISO registered company.

(From left to right) Commission on Audit commissioner Hon. Heidi Mendoza, COA chairperson Hon. Grace Pulido-Tan, Tech Vantive Systems, Inc. president Conrado G. Dumlao, Ombudsman Hon. Conchita Carpio-Morales and chief of party, Integrity Project and Managing director for International Affairs and Trade of U.S. Agency International Development (USAID) Jacqueline Williams-Bridgers.

Wanted:
DRIVER
Apply at: 168 Juan St.
Alfred, Brgy. Tibagan
San Juan City, NCR

FAMILANDIA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
EDG. DIAMANDO, MEXICO, FAMILANDIA
Tel. No., Mobile / Fax No. / Email

INVITATION TO BID

Sealed Bids shall submit the following requirements for pre-qualification: Company Profile, latest ITR, Audited Financial Statement, business or mayor's permit, tax clearance, VAT registration, original copy of bid bond, bid security, and other requirements.

Submission of Pre-qualification Documents: Feb 20 - Feb 27, 2012
Issuance and submission of Bid Documents: Feb 28 - Mar 05, 2012
Bids shall be opened at the Conference Room: Mar 06, 2012 @ 10:00 a.m.
Validity of Bids: Mar 7, 2012 at 2PM

Bid documents can be picked from Mabini to Bonifacio Sts. for bid clarification or information by calling the corresponding Bids & Awards Committee Chairman, Engr. Alberto Bautista, Jr. at 0917-1234567. Bidders are qualified and need to acquire their bid with PhilGEPS.

Bids shall be submitted personally to the Bids & Awards Committee Secretariat, Ms. Cecilia Lopez at Conference Room, Mabini St., Mexico, Pampanga.

FAELCO, I reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids including qualification to pre-qualify without stating any reason for any reason, please observe the transparency and the spirit of fairness in conducting bidding.

Signed:
ENGR. ALBERTO S. BAUTISTA
BAC Chairperson

Attested by:
ENGR. LEONARDO C. ALVAREZ
General Manager

(ED Res. 11 & 12, 11-2012)

VEHICLES FOR SALE
(Open to Public)

Terms and conditions are applicable for all the bidders/all sales are subject to Final Approval. Price is subject to change without prior notice.

Vehicles may be viewed at the following venue:

1. Vehicles will be sold on an "as is where is" basis and subject to Final Approval.
2. Prospective bidders are required to submit their sealed bids on or before the scheduled date and time of bidding.
3. Interested individuals are required to pay a non-refundable bidding fee.
4. The bidder has the prerogative not to accept any or all offer in case inappropriate and unauthorized.
5. Payment shall be in cash or manager's check.
6. Vehicles are available for viewing and inspection at their respective locations from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM on working days.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT- PHILIPPINES

Uplifting Lives of Filipinos through Economic Growth

The Millennium Challenge Corporation ("MCC") and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (the "Government" or "GOP") have entered into a Millennium Challenge Compact for Millennium Challenge Account assistance to help facilitate poverty reduction through economic growth in the Philippines in the amount not exceeding four hundred thirty-three million nine hundred ten thousand (US $433,910,000) ("MCC Funding").

Millennium Challenge Account - Philippines ("MCA-P") is a corporation registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission on January 13, 2010 by authority of Executive Order No. 808 dated December 15, 2009, has been designated by the Government as the entity accountable for implementation of the program funded under the Compact.

MCA-P invites qualified applicants for the position of **PROCUREMENT DIRECTOR.**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. Takes the lead and oversees all aspects of MCA-P's procurement operations by ensuring that the flow of procurement activity and all procurement-related transactions to implement the Compact are properly managed and in accordance with the MCC Program Procurement Guidelines (PPG);
2. Synchronizes the substance and process elements of procurement activities;
3. Manages the Procurement Agent (PA) contract with MCA-P, S/He serves as the primary liaison between the Procurement Agent (PA), MCC and outside entities from a variety of specialized sectors on all procurement activities, and facilitates the smooth interplay between and among all elements of the procurement process;
4. Spearheads the identification of MCA-P procurement needs, preparation and progress monitoring of the semi-annual procurement plans and organizing procurement operations, in close coordination with and assistance from the PA;
5. Reviews the bid documents, Procurement Plans, and all other required documents prepared by the PA, and recommends any necessary changes or improvements to ensure compliance with the MCC PPG;
6. Reviews and updates the MCA-P Procurement Operations Manual (POM) prepared by the PA and recommends any necessary changes or improvements to ensure the POM's responsiveness to the operational needs and realities of MCA-P;
7. Supports MCA-P Management in maintaining the integrity, transparency and confidentiality of the procurement process;
8. Ensures that the Procurement Agent(s) act consistently with the approved procurement operations manual;
9. Monitors compliance by the Procurement Agent(s) with all the rules and procedures of these Guidelines;
10. Facilitates the preparation and submission to the PA of the terms of reference, specification of goods and/or scope of work, as the case may be, by the MCA-P technical staff;
11. Reviews and gives substantive comments on reports submitted by the PA;
12. Manages the MCA-P procurement staff;
13. Approves procurement decisions in accordance with MCC's Program Procurement Guidelines;
14. Performs other tasks and responsibilities as requested by the Deputy Managing Director for Administration and Finance or the Managing Director of MCA-P.

Required Qualifications are in http://www.mcapi.ph

Interested applicants must fill out the application form which may be downloaded from our website http://www.mcapi.ph and submit, together with an updated resume, to hrdmca@mca-p.ph not later than March 5, 2012.

GREENPEACE

One of the world's leading environmental campaigning organizations is looking for hardworking and highly motivated candidates to help in the implementation of Greenpeace's ongoing campaigns in the Philippines.

FUNDRAISING COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

The Fundraising Communications Coordinator will ensure effective relationship building and retention of supporters, and potential supporters using a range of methods and activities. The successful candidate will work closely with and report to the Fundraising Manager.

Required Experience:

- Bachelor's Degree in Marketing / Communications or other related field and/or equivalent work experience
- Management or supervisory experience
- 1-3 years' in developing creative ideas and writing engaging copy, managing the production of marketing materials (such as: newsletters, brochures and annual reports), successful track record in using a wide range of fundraising and marketing methods and applications
- Supporter / customer care experience

Essential Skills:

- Excellent communication skills (written and verbal) in English
- Excellent numerical skills
- Experience with databases
- Able to manage multiple tasks and prioritize effectively with minimal supervision
- Able to develop, test, implement and evaluate plans
- Able to work independently without direct supervision
- Strong customer care orientation
- Keen attention to detail
- Time, task and record management skills
- Familiarity with online communications
- Computer skills: Microsoft Office, internet and email

Personal Attributes:

- Confident and motivated
- Personable
- Capable of interacting with a wide range of people
- Works well under pressure
- Passion & commitment to the mission, vision, values and methods of Greenpeace

Interested candidates are requested to write a letter of introduction explaining why you are qualified for the position, and fill-up the application form which you can download from http://www.greenpeace.org/seasia/ph/getinvolved/Fundraising-Communications-Coordinator/ and email by the closing date to: jobs.ph@greenpeace.org. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

Deadline for applications: February 20, 2012

A Leading Printing Company based in Carmona, Cavite is inviting high breed of professionals who wants to be a part of our team:

"MARKETING STAFF"
Female
Graduate of any four-year business course. Preferably with experience specializing in distributorship development/recruitment involving new business opportunities
With excellent interpersonal communication skills

"COMPUTER PROGRAMMER/ WEB DESIGNER/GRAPHIC ARTIST"
Male/Female
Graduate of B.S. Computer Science, Information Technology or any related course
For "Computer Programmer": must have advance knowledge in database. For "Web designer": must have experience in designing website, and for "Graphic Artist": must have in-depth knowledge in animations and illustrator

"QA SUPERVISOR/ QA STAFF"
Male/Female
Preferably licensed engineer for Supervisor
Graduate of Chemical, Industrial, Mechanical Engineering or other related courses
With similar working experienced in a manufacturing/packaging company

"HRPEX STAFF"
Female
Graduate of any four-year business course; Computer literate; Aggressive; Independent; Good communication/marketing skills
Spanish is an advantage

"PRODUCTION IN-CHARGE"
Male/Female
Graduate of any four-year economic, computer literate, similar working experience is an advantage

Please apply personally with your Resume to:

Xiau Fu Color Printing Corporation
Blue Ribbon Industrial Complex
Lot 6&7 Blk. 3 Ph. 3, Barangay Carmona, Cavite
Tel. No. (046) 431-1111 / 431-1112
Fax No.(046) 8702-035 or email your resume to hr@xiaufuprinting.com

KOOPERATION UTAN GRÄNSER

SWEDISH COOPERATIVE CENTRE

Country Director

The Swedish Cooperative Centre (SCC) is an international non-governmental development organisation owned by the Swedish Cooperative movement operating worldwide.

The SCC has its Headquarters in Stockholm, Sweden and four regional Offices, coordinating activities in Southern Africa, Eastern Africa, Latin America and Europe/Asia respectively. Since 2010, SCC has a Country Office in the Philippines in Quezon City. The Country Office has up to now been coordinated by Swedish expatriates who will now be replaced by a local expert. In the Philippines, the SCC supports local initiatives in urban as well as rural areas in the agriculture sector, habitat and housing with special focus on poverty alleviation, gender, democracy development and environmental issues.

The SCC Regional Office for East Asia is seeking a Country Director for the Philippines to manage and coordinate our programme in the country. Due to a gender imbalance among our Country Directors in Asia, priority is given to female candidates with adequate qualifications.

Required qualifications:

- Fluency in English and Filipino
- At least 2 years in a senior management position
- Documented experience in general management, including staff and budget management;
- Good knowledge of results-based planning, monitoring and evaluation;
- Documented experience of civil society networking and programmes;
- Degree in Social Sciences, Agriculture, Natural Resources Management, Economy or any other relevant field;
- Physically fit since the position demands regular travelling and field monitoring, both domestic and international.

The Country Director will work for a contract period of 2 years with a probation period of 6 months and the official duty station is the Philippines. The applicant can start as soon as possible but not later than May 2012. The duty station is Quezon City. For further information, contact Marinela Dragomir at marinela.dragomir@coopsverige.org. For further information about SCC, see www.coop.se/int-se.

Applications, including CV, personal letter, salary and conditions required and two references, should be submitted to SCC Eurasia Regional Director Armando Costa Pinto: ac@coopsverige.org with copy to marinela.dragomir@coopsverige.org, no later than 27 February 2012.

NATIONAL BOOKSTORE

Manila NATIONAL BOOKSTORE STAFF REQUIREMENTS

With complete SSS, GSIS and Philhealth benefits, local holidays and privileges in compliance with DOLE Labor Policy and the National Labor Law.

REQUIREMENTS:

Male or female, must age between 18 to 30 years old, at least 5'2" in height, and with good physical appearance. Willing to work on any assigned branch within Metro Manila. Must be a graduate of any course, with at least 1 year working experience in retail industry preferably in bookstore. Must have excellent communication skills and willingness to learn.

OFFICE SUPPORT STAFF

College Graduate, Above 30 Degree in Business, Office Management or Computer Science preferred. Willing to work full time (Mon to Sat / Mon to Fri) in Makati. Fluent in written and spoken English. Experienced in preparing and submitting reports. At least 2 yrs. work experience with MIS is an added advantage. Computer literate, preferably in Excel, MS Word, MS Powerpoint, capable of preparation of statistical charts and reports. Knowledge in record keeping and use of office equipment. Good record character and detail oriented. Willing to work out of office and perform overtime when needed.

Interested parties may email their resume to: rgbusap@yahoo.com.ph

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- CHIEF CONTROL ENGR
- CIVIL QUANTITY SURVEYOR
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- MATERIAL CONTROLLER
- MATERIAL INSPECTOR
- MECHANICAL INSPECTOR
- SAFETY INSPECTOR
- WELDING INSPECTOR
- FIRING INSPECTOR (BTR)
- PAINT INSPECTOR
- PIPING INSPECTOR
- STEEL STRUCTURE INSP.
- ELECT. INSP.
- SURVEYOR (BASIC)
- SECURITY SUPERVISOR
- EQUIPMENT OPER (BASIC)
- BUILDING SUPERVISOR
- TOW TRUCKING SUPERVISOR
- DRESS & SCAF SUPERVISOR
- PIPING OPER (BASIC)
- STEEL STRUCTURE OPER
- INSTRUMENT OPER (BASIC)
- MAINTENANCE (ALL SKILL)
- OFFICE CLERK (BASIC CORRESPONDENCE)
- OFFICE CLERK (BASIC)
- ELECTRICIAN
- OPERS DRIVER
- MATERIAL FOREMAN
- CONTRACT ENGINEER
- BUSINESS ENGINEER
- MANAGEMENT CONTROLLER
- MATERIAL INSPECTOR
- MECHANICAL ASSISTANT INSP.
- BUILDING INSPECTOR
- FOUNDATION CONSTR. INSP.
- PAINT INSPECTOR
- PAINTING (BASIC) INSP.
- QC STEEL STRUCTURE INSP.
- CIVIL INSPECTOR
- LABOR CONTROLLER
- WELDER, OPER (BASIC EQUIP.)
- CIVIL SUPERVISOR
- SANITARY OPER (BASIC)
- PIPING OPER (BASIC)
- PIPING SUPERVISOR
- PAINTING SUPERVISOR
- INSTRUMENT OPER (BASIC)
- GANG BOX CONTROLLER
- OFFICE CLERK (BASIC)
- OFFICE CLERK (ARE)
- SECRETARY
- IT CLERK
- DRIVER
- ACCOUNT ASSISTANT
- SUB CONTRACT ADMIN
- MATERIAL CONTROL ENGR
- WAREHOUSE & YARD MAN
- MATERIAL CONTROL ENGR
- BUILDING PLANT / MAINT
- DRILLING/PILING MAP
- BLDG & CIVIL MAP
- SAFETY OFFICER
- QC WELDING, OPER (BASIC)
- QC CIVIL SUPERVISOR
- STEEL STRUCTURE SUPERVISOR
- MTC & STR SUPERVISOR
- ELECTRICAL SUPER
- CHIEF CONTROLLER
- SECURITY GUARD
- OFFICE CLERK (BASIC)
- OFFICE CLERK (ARE)
- NURSE
- TRUCK OPERATOR

DAELIM

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- PLANT CIVIL CONTRACT ENGR
- PROCESS DESIGN ENGR
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- PLANT CIVIL STR DESIGN ENGR

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From the nation's No. 1 Newspaper:

INQUIRER

JOBSEARCH

A growing company engaged in baking is currently in need of a

HEAD BAKER

who will supervise a commissary and perform skilled baking work.

The candidate must be willing to work in Alabang/Paranaque area and must be familiar with European style baking, particularly, Artisan breads.

The following are some of the duties and responsibilities of the Head Baker:

- Uses weights and measures to adjust ingredients in recipes.
- Prepares and bakes all bakery items for menu and special events following standardized recipes.
- Supervises bakery personnel, plans, organizes activities and checks work, trains personnel, and recommends applicants for employment or for discipline, termination or retention.
- Estimates baking needs, requisitions adequate supplies, inventories supplies on hand and keeps records of purchases and costs.
- Ensures bakery and equipment are maintained according to proper health and sanitation standards.

If you are interested in the said position, please send your resume with your latest photograph to:

EMPLOYEE MANAGEMENT CORPORATION
6F GUB Building, Paseo de Roxas, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Applications will be accepted until March 2, 2012

PEMSTER INTEGRATED DEV. CORP.

#1 Cavan, Study Town Building, Lot 1, Phase 1, Bagumbayan, Quezon City

Position 1: BUILDING MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT

1 graduate / male / experience
2-3 years experience in the field of building management
With knowledge in maintenance and sanitary works
With knowledge in preparation of specifications for various supplies and materials, and in preparation of purchase requests and canvassing
Must be willing to work with an unstructured and flexible environment

Position 2: ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

2 years College Graduate / Business Administration / Secretarial / Accounting / Computer Science / Engineering / Architecture / Fine Arts / Liberal Arts
With knowledge in HR matters such as timekeeping, and preparation of government remittances
Has knowledge in preparation of specifications for various supplies and materials, and in preparation of purchase requests and canvassing
Must be willing to work with an unstructured and flexible environment
Computer and typing skills
Excellent oral and written communications
POSITIVE Computer literate, creative, resourceful, etc.

Please submit your resume at:

#1 PEC Bldg., EDSA cor. Bonifacio Drive
Barrio Kapitolyo St., Pasig City
(Entrance at 7th - Corner Bonifacio Drive and Kapitolyo Street)
or send to: hrd1@yahoo.com